

**Reitz Memorial High School
Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use and Testing
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Q: Why is Reitz Memorial High School testing students for drugs and alcohol?

A: Drug and alcohol use is harmful to students, interferes with their ability to learn, and can disrupt the educational environment for other students. After reviewing numerous studies and speaking with experts on this topic, we have chosen to establish reasonable suspicion and random testing programs to discourage drug and alcohol abuse. In addition, this effort is designed to help us identify students who have substance abuse issues and may need treatment.

Q: Does Reitz Memorial High School have a drug problem?

A: Teenagers across the country are constantly pressured to use illegal substances, and Catholic schools are not immune to this problem. We think it is important to take a stand against the dangers of drug and alcohol use. First and foremost, this effort is intended to discourage drug use. Just as people get their blood pressure regularly checked and see their doctors for annual physicals as part of a quality prevention program, this initiative is primarily designed to prevent drug and alcohol use. If the test results indicate students are using drugs and alcohol, we will act on these findings.

Q: Do other schools test for drug and alcohol use?

A: School drug testing programs have existed for over 30 years. Many Catholic schools have adopted drug testing programs in recent years, including Cathedral High School (Indianapolis), Providence High School (Clarksville), Scecina High School (Indianapolis), and Central Catholic High School (Lafayette). The Diocese of Evansville has adopted a policy for all high schools to participate in random drug testing.

Q: How often will students be randomly tested for drugs and alcohol?

A: This program is intended to be truly random. All students will be assigned a number and the professional drug testing company will use a computer program to randomly select a set number of students to be tested. We do not plan to share how often or how many students will be tested throughout the school year. It is possible that some students will not be tested and others will be tested more than once in a year.

Q: What is a reasonable suspicion drug testing program?

A: Reasonable suspicion testing allows the administration to require drug and alcohol testing when we suspect a student may be under the influence or exhibits behaviors consistent with drug use. Reasonable suspicion testing is not new. In the case that a concern arises regarding an individual student, parents will be contacted to arrange for the testing.

Q: What drugs are tested for?

A: Since the program is intended to prevent all drug and alcohol use, we do not plan to publish a list of the testing panel. We can safely say that most common street and prescription drugs will be part of the testing panel.

Q: Is this new drug testing program all that is being done to prevent drug use?

A: This drug testing is only one piece of our efforts to support healthy living for our students. For many years we have partnered with Youth First whose mission is “to strengthen youth and families through evidence-based programs that prevent substance abuse, promote healthy behaviors, and maximize student success.” Youth First has brought programs, speakers and school social workers for many years. The organization continues to provide us with a full time social worker to assist our students and their families as needed and requested.

Q: What happens when a student tests positive for drugs and alcohol?

A: Although our primary goal is prevention, we have established a protocol for handling drug and alcohol use. A positive test will result in contact with parents and a referral for an assessment to determine the severity of the substance abuse. Counseling and/or treatment will be dependent on the student’s needs. Other consequences may involve suspension from athletic or extracurricular activities and events.

Q. To whom in the school will test results be released?

A. The testing provider will inform the principal or his/her designee. The principal or designee will inform the student and parents. Consultation with the parents will determine if a pastoral team (chaplain, campus minister and/or counselor) will be convened to provide support for the student and family.

Q. Where are the records kept and for how long?

A. Records related to random testing will be kept in a separate file locked in the principal’s office. They will not be part of the student’s record and will be destroyed upon graduation.

Q: What kind of test will be utilized?

A. Drug testing will be done with urine samples that will be collected at school. Collection will be conducted by contracted professionals and the collection will NOT be observed.

Q: Can prescription or over the counter drugs cause a positive drug test?

A: Yes. However, parents will have an opportunity to provide information about student prescription drug use to the drug testing provider. The lab can confirm whether or not the residue is the prescribed drug and amount. Students who take prescription medication or amounts not prescribed to them will be subject to disciplinary action.

Q: If I suspect my child is using drugs or alcohol, can I seek help from Reitz Memorial?

A: Yes. Reitz Memorial High School is pleased to partner with Youth First who provides us with a full time social worker. Parents are encouraged to contact the social worker any time they have a concern about their son or daughter or need information in regard to drug and/or alcohol use or other issues of concern to their social and emotional health.

Q: Will faculty and staff be subject to random drug and alcohol testing?

A: Only students will be subject to random drug and alcohol testing at this time. The focus of this policy is health and well-being of students. All Catholic school employees go through expanded background checks when they are hired. The Diocese also has a program that regularly runs the background checks of existing employees. In order to renew teaching administrator and teacher licenses, background checks are also required from the Indiana Department of Education.

Q: What is the cost of the program and how will it be paid for?

A: The school will cover the cost of all initial random and reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol tests. If students test positive, they will be financially responsible for any future testing. The school believes the testing fees are an important investment in the health and safety of students.

Q: What if someone refuses to participate in the drug and alcohol testing program?

A: It shall be an express condition of enrollment that the parents/guardians of a student shall consent to the policies set forth in the Drug Testing Policy. If students refuse to cooperate and provide a sample, it will be considered the equivalent of a positive test result, and the appropriate consequences for violating the school's drug, alcohol, and tobacco policy will apply, i.e., first offense, second offense, or additional offense.