

**Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
Bishop Guilfoyle High School
Drug Testing Policy**

OVERVIEW

Concern for student safety has increased dramatically in the past decade. Areas of concern and implementation at Bishop Guilfoyle High School focus on Christian moral character, healthy lifestyles, wise decision making and safe living.

The use and abuse of drugs by young people continues to be a concern throughout society. Efforts in our school include programs offered in association with local health agencies. We continue to address the need to assist students in turning away from the influence of drugs and improper drug use.

In a recent decision, the United States Supreme Court stated that students in school have limited expectations to privacy which, since this statement refers to public schools, further supports such programs as random drug testing in Catholic school settings. The Court found that the students' limited expectation of privacy and the insignificant invasion of privacy such a test represents were outweighed by the interest in preventing, deterring, and detecting drug use. Thus, such policies and tests are entirely reasonable.

After several years of discussion among school advisory boards, administrators, faculty, staff, and students, our drug testing policy was implemented with the 2005-2006 school year.

POLICY IMPLEMENTED

Any student enrolled at Bishop Guilfoyle High School is eligible to serve as part of the sample group for random selection in a Drug Testing program. The program sample pool will include all students enrolled and will be required for any student attempting to enroll after the school year has begun. The guidelines for the policy/program are as follows:

- I. An outside drug testing agency will be employed by the school to administer the tests.
- II. All Bishop Guilfoyle students will be assigned a four digit student identification number. These numbers will be known only to the principal of the building.
- III. When the agency arrives to administer tests, they will bring a list of randomly selected numbers. The principal will then take those numbers and apply them to the student list.
- IV. Students assigned the numbers that were selected will be retrieved for testing. They will be asked to empty their pockets of all items. The agency and their health officials will then administer the test.

- V. The test will consist of a seven (7) panel drug screen. In the event of a Non-negative result, the testing sample will be sent to the laboratory of the agency for further evaluation. The laboratory fee of \$55.00 will be assessed to the parents.
- VI. The process will be repeated periodically throughout the school year.
- VII. Findings of a Negative (no drugs apparently present) will be shared by the principal with the student and their parents.
- VIII. Findings of the first Non-negative or Positive (drugs detected in the test sample) will result in the following steps:
- A. A meeting of the principal, school guidance counselor, parents, and student will take place to discuss the results.
 - B. The student will be referred to the Student Assistance Program (SAP) coordinated by the Guidance Department.
 - C. The parents and student must comply with the recommendations of the SAP. Failure to cooperate will result in withdrawal/expulsion from Bishop Guilfoyle High School.
 - D. The student will automatically be tested in all remaining drug tests for one calendar year at parents' cost (\$32.00 per test).
- IX. Findings of the second Non-negative or Positive (drugs detected in the sample of a subsequent test) will result in immediate expulsion from Bishop Guilfoyle High School.
- X. Funding for the random tests will be met by private contributions and grants.
- XI. Any student requesting to enroll after the school year has begun will be required to provide a negative drug test result. (Said test is to be paid for by parents and results provided before enrollment at Bishop Guilfoyle).
- XII. As the test program agreed upon by the school and testing agency is one of high quality, attempts to alter or provide false samples will be immediately detected. If any student attempts to alter the results or provide a false sample for testing, the test will be considered a Non-negative or Positive result and the policy will be administered accordingly.

It is the policy of the school, based on our Christian values, to offer assistance and guidance to students who, for whatever reason, find themselves involved in the use of drugs. Following steps of assistance and intervention for individuals, the concern and focus must be the remaining members of the student body and prevention of the influence of drugs on those who have remained drug-free.