



April 12, 2021

Dear Central Catholic Parents and Guardians,

Since the opening of Central Catholic High School in 1927, the Brothers, faculty, and staff have helped countless students to grow into Men of Faith, Scholarship, and Service and to be leaders in their communities. We believe that a critical component of their development is for students to remain drug free. Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, Central Catholic's extensive health and wellness counseling and education program will include required random drug testing with the potential of any student being selected at any point throughout the school year. This decision was made after three years of study by the administrative team and with the full support of our Board and the Diocese of Pittsburgh. As you may remember, we planned to implement this important program during the 2020-21 school year, but delayed due to the uncertainties and the changes necessitated by COVID-19.

Central Catholic has retained the services of Psychemedics Corporation of Boston to conduct the periodic drug assessment of students (grades 9-12), using a non-invasive hair sampling procedure. Psychemedics' patented process is considered the gold standard in hair testing and is used by hundreds of educational institutions as well as Fortune 500 companies. To learn more, visit www.psychemedics.com.

The impact of drug use on students and families can be devastating and our community is not immune. The purpose of our expanded initiative is twofold. First, to provide our students with a reason to resist drug use by being able to say "I can't, my school tests." Second, to provide assistance and support to students and families who test positive for drug usage. The decision to test for drugs comes from a genuine desire to intervene as soon as possible in order to help the student make positive decisions in the future. As outlined in the policy, you will be informed the day your student is tested and again with the result of the test. In the event of a positive test, an individualized plan of action will be developed to provide the support and necessary resources to assist in recovery and remaining drug free.

Central Catholic has an extensive and well-developed wellness program that includes drug use prevention education and opportunities for students to receive help with drug abuse. This drug testing program is one more way to help our students to become or to remain drug free.

Your student will be informed of this initiative and we will review the procedures with him that will be in place for next year. Again, we will assure him that this is not a punitive program, but one to allow him to say "no" and receive help if needed. You may want to review the policy and other information at www.centralcatholichs.com/wellness

Central Catholic High School will always look for ways to keep our students safe and help them develop into the young men that God intends them to be. Our Catholic and Lasallian mission of education was always first and foremost in our mind as we developed this initiative. We believe that this initiative is an important step in helping our students better understand the sacredness of their own bodies and to assist them in making choices that keeps them on the path to a successful future.

Fraternally,

Br. Tony Baginski; FSC

Br. Tony Baginski, FSC
Principal