**2016-17 CCH Drug and Alcohol Policy**

***Parent Email***

Dear Parents:

Today, we are announcing an updated Drug and Alcohol Policy to take effect at Covington Catholic High School beginning with the 2016-17 school year. We believe this policy and substance abuse prevention program reflect our commitment to the development of our young men in alignment with CovCath’s mission – free from the destructive impacts of drugs.

We do not have evidence of widespread substance abuse among our student body. However, the alarming rise of drug use and addiction in the Northern Kentucky community at-large is well documented. This program, with technical and financial support from St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Medicount Management, and the Drug Free Clubs of America (DFCA), is intended to provide our young men with an additional tool for deterrence, as well as tools to address usage with appropriate treatment if/when it occurs.

Key points of the updated policy include:

* 100% of our student population will be tested at least once annually, and will be subject to additional random testing.
* Parent and student agreement to the overall policy and student participation in the testing is mandatory for enrollment at Covington Catholic for the 2016-17 school year.
* Counseling and substance abuse treatment will be required following a positive test result.
* Possession or usage of controlled substances, including alcohol, by students on school property or when attending a school-sponsored activity, is not permitted. Guidelines for disciplinary action for infractions are articulated in the policy.

The policy and additional explanatory materials are available on the CovCath website at covcath.org/drugfreepolicy.

Please support our efforts and join in our prayers to help the students of Covington Catholic High School make positive and healthful choices as they move toward successful and impactful futures.