

*Empowering Students To Make Healthy Life Choices*



**Saint John Paul II**  
*Live By The Spirit Of Faith.* ACADEMY



## **Drug & Alcohol Testing Program**

*Adopted September 2015*

*Updated September 2021*

## The Mission Of Saint John Paul II Academy



*Saint John Paul II Academy, located in Boca Raton, Florida, is a Catholic co-educational college preparatory school in the Diocese of Palm Beach following in the tradition of Saint John Baptist De La Salle and the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Saint John Paul II*

*Academy provides a rigorous academic curriculum designed to prepare students for success in college in the 21st century.*

*The faith-based learning community fosters excellence in all programs and enables the spiritual, academic, artistic, and physical development of*

*each student.*

*The School instills the Gospel values of tolerance, sensitivity, concern for the poor, justice, peace, and responsibility while welcoming students of all beliefs and backgrounds.*

***Live Jesus In Our Hearts Forever!***

**“We believe that students learn best when they are not suffering from the direct influence of drug and/or alcohol abuse.”**

## Drug & Alcohol Use By Students In Modern Society

All of us at Saint John Paul II Academy understand that there are pressures in modern society that lead young people to consider the use of illicit substances in their social life. We know that these pressures can lead students to use a variety of substances that are inappropriate physically, psychologically,

emotionally, developmentally, and spiritually. Knowing this, and knowing that the availability of illicit substances ranging from alcohol to both illegal and prescription drugs has become far easier than in years past, we have worked with parents, students, and alumni in examining

strategies to assist students in not only dealing with the pressures that teens face regarding drug and alcohol use but also by educating them about the inherent dangers of these substances, particularly at their level of physical, emotional, social, and spiritual development.

## What We Believe—Illicit/Illegal Drugs

**We believe that it is never appropriate for students to possess or use illicit drugs.**

- We believe that students learn best when they are not suffering from the direct influence of drug and/or alcohol abuse.
- We believe that the use of illicit drugs is never acceptable and that adolescents do not have the privilege to engage in illicit drug and/or alcohol use.

- We believe that the use of illicit drugs, even controlled substances that may be legal in some states, is not acceptable for students at Saint John Paul II Academy.
- We believe that it is never appropriate for students to possess or use illicit drugs.
- We believe that

possession/use of illicit drugs by adolescents is not only illegal but that it can lead to serious legal issues impacting their futures and that it can negatively impact their developmental and academic progress as well as their physical, social, emotional, and spiritual health.

## What We Believe—Alcohol

- We believe that students learn best when they are not suffering from the direct influence of alcohol abuse. We further believe that any use of alcohol by young people under the age of 21 is, by definition, alcohol abuse.
- We believe that responsible alcohol use is a privilege and not a right, and that the only appropriate time to consume alcohol begins at the age of 21.
- We believe that it is never appropriate for students to possess or use alcohol.
- We believe that it is never appropriate for parents to turn a blind eye towards alcohol consumption in their homes and that those who do so may be at risk of both violating the laws of the State of Florida and of subjecting themselves to potential significant civil liability.
- We believe that possession/use of alcohol by adolescents is not only illegal but that it can lead to serious legal issues impacting their futures and that it can negatively impact their academic and developmental progress.

**“We believe that it is never appropriate for students to possess or use alcohol.”**

## Our First Approach—Education

We believe that, by educating young people within our Catholic, Lasallian tradition, we empower them to realize the presence of God within both themselves each other. Every prayer at Saint John Paul II Academy, and in the classrooms of all Lasallian schools worldwide, begins with the phrase *“Let Us Remember That We Are In The Holy Presence Of God.”* With

this in mind we regularly schedule educational programs for our students related to the dangers of substance abuse, we provide opportunities for spiritual development that call them to the highest and best use of their God-given talents, and we call on each student to be not only responsible for their own well being but to demonstrate a clear and

absolute concern for the health and safety of others.

Our Guidance team works with small and large groups of students, as well as with individuals, to assist them in creating strategies to live in a way that demonstrates their knowledge that they are precious gifts of God, and that they have the ability to use those gifts to achieve great things in their lives.

**“Let Us Remember That We Are In The Holy Presence Of God!”**

## Drug Testing: Helping Students Make Good Choices

After carefully analyzing the positive results of drug testing programs in a variety of schools nationwide, Saint John Paul II Academy has decided to implement a mandatory, random drug testing policy as an enhancement to the School’s continuing educational and prevention initiatives and disciplinary policies. While we believe that our students fall significantly below the national averages for high school drug use, and while multiple ‘sweeps’ of areas of our property by law enforcement officers with dogs trained to detect illegal drugs have failed to find any evidence of their presence on campus, we want to do all that we can to help secure the well-being of the young men and women entrusted to our care. Research shows that

drug testing is a powerful deterrent to drug use.

The primary purpose of this policy is to give our students another reason to say ‘no’ to drugs and alcohol and to assist them in living and maintaining a substance-free lifestyle.

As a Catholic school we believe that we have a unique advantage in our ability to offer this program. We believe that this is a proactive step towards preventing problems, and that should any positive results be uncovered that parents would be empowered to assist their children in finding the help that is needed.

**Nationally.....**

- 33% of high school students use marijuana.**
- 80% of high school students report witnessing illegal drug use, possession, or dealing of drugs.**
- 72% Of high school students with B to A averages do not use marijuana.**



## How Does Drug Testing Work?

Students will be tested by hair analysis, a process that requires a small cosmetically insignificant sample of hair from the student. This method was chosen because it has consistently proven to be the most effective method in correctly identifying drug use while being the least invasive and most cost-effective technique. The hair sample is secured in a bag and the student will sign the bag to insure that the contents are their own.

The test will screen for marijuana (THC), cocaine, opiates, amphetamines (including ecstasy and methamphetamines), and phencyclidine (PCP). Additionally, the test may identify a range of usage levels (light, moderate, heavy) and it also can provide a time window for the use of the substance.

Students will be randomly selected for testing throughout the year (August through May). Once a student is tested, his or her name is returned to the collective pool and he or she may be selected again.

When a student tests negative a letter will be sent to the parents/guardians confirming that great news.

For students whose test result yield a positive for some drug/alcohol use, the following will occur:

- Students and parents will be given the information from the analysis report in a meeting with the Guidance Counselor and Assistant Principal for Student Life.
- There will be no disciplinary consequences nor will there be any restriction on cocurricular participation for the first positive result from testing under the ‘Health & Wellness’ policy focus.
- Disciplinary and cocurricular consequences will be imposed for violations of the “Student & Campus Safety” policy focus. Note that routine alcohol testing falls within this “Student & Campus Safety” policy focus
- A mandatory retest, between 90 and 120 days from the first test, will be done (at the parents’ expense).

Should a student test positive a second time, the Principal will be informed and the student’s future at SJPII Academy would need to be discussed with the student and parents.

Additional information and detailed steps within the policy are available in the [Student/Parent Handbook](#).

## An Open Door....

Any student who may be presently utilizing illegal drugs is encouraged to seek assistance and speak, confidentially, with a member of our Guidance team or administration so that the School can assist them in becoming substance free.

# Saint John Paul II Academy

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[www.sjpii.net](http://www.sjpii.net)