

MORRIS CATHOLIC MONTHLY

DRUG & ALCOHOL PREVENTION

Time Magazine reported in December, 2009 that more kids were smoking pot than in 2008. Of 8th graders, nearly 12% reported lighting up while 27% of 10th graders reported the same behavior, up nearly 3% from the previous year.

While this may seem like just another “teens will be teens” article, it’s one that caught our eye and fit into a conversation our Administrative Leadership Team had been having back in the Fall. We wanted to self evaluate to see how we, as a school, were doing in terms of the prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol use among our student body.

During our monthly meeting, we decided to do several things to better evaluate our own students and how effective the school is treating what is unfortunately a reality for too many young people. Here are our findings:

- **Random drug testing is an aid to our students.** For those students who are tempted to use drugs or alcohol, the school’s random test (we test via urine rather than hair follicles) gives them a reason for saying “no”. This further supports the moral and spiritual reasons for abstaining.

- **Thus far, 40% of the student body has been tested.** We test 1-3 times per week at various times during the day. The results are accurate and moderated in precise detail by both our Nurse (Mrs. Shipley) and our Dean of Students (Mr. Abline).

- **Morris Catholic’s drug testing system is consistent among other schools.** Some schools drug test every morning while others about once a month. We feel that our system is both fair and effective.

- **Other supports are in place.** The Straight and Narrow retreat for our seniors gives each of them an entire day with a recovering addict- a powerful reinforcement that drugs and alcohol can have devastating effects on one’s life.

We live in tough times and I’m not naive enough to think that our students are immune from temptation. My hope is that the systems we have in place assist each student in both saying “no” to drugs and saying “yes” to their faith in Christ.

Mr. St. Pierre

President



February Podcasts

Check out our cast with a Sister of Christian Charity, a Benedictine Monk and a Diocesan Priest for Vocation Awareness Week.

February Wish-list

Would you like to participate in a Spring clean-up day? Email me if you can help with landscaping, painting and other campus projects.

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