

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents,

Over the past several years, we have tightened up our drug policy at the request of parents, students, and staff members. It is our desire to have a safe environment that is free from the destructive elements of drug use. We also want to minister to our students and families and provide an appropriate opportunity to change destructive behavior if possible. We have communicated several times concerning changes in our drug policy and once again want to send out an additional note to be sure everyone is aware of the changes. Our update to our policy is tighter, but still allows an opportunity to get help to a student who chooses that option. Confidentiality is important to us and is a part of our process from start to finish.

There are two major changes to our policy. In order to receive two changes a student must now indicate to us ahead of time if they believe the test will come back positive. If a student says the test will be positive (admitting to drug use), we will count that as their first offence (assuming they have not had a previous positive) and they will follow our procedure for a second and final chance. If a student says the test will be negative (no drug use) and the test comes back positive (indicating drug use) that student will be immediately dismissed from the school (even if it is their first positive). This does put pressure and responsibility on the student to admit to drug use before the test. The students who step up and admit drug use will receive help and another chance. Please be aware of this change and its implications with drug testing.

The second change is a zero tolerance for cheating on a drug test. Any sample that is not the student's, that is tampered with, or in any way indicates cheating (cold sample) will result in an immediate dismissal from school. Any student found with implements to cheat on a drug test or assisting another to cheat on a drug test will be dismissed. We have been made aware that this is a practice that is happening at the school and we have chosen to draw a hard line in dealing with it.

In summary, it is better to just be honest. I want our drug policy to be a DETERRENT to drug use. I believe these changes will enhance our environment and protect students who may be pressured to help someone cheat on a test, or who may feel peer pressure to try drugs in a social setting. I want them to be able to say the price is too high to mess with drugs in any way. Our students have given me a positive response to these changes and they are proud that Parkview is taking steps to be serious about the conduct of our students. It makes a diploma from Parkview more valuable and our students appreciate that. As we have increased standards at Parkview, we have seen an increase in a positive attitude on campus and an increased enrollment. We love our students and our parents and look forward to a great school year.

Our policy can be found on our website and information on our procedures can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Becky Madden for high school or Mrs. Lisa Jones for middle school.

#parkviewstrong,



Dr. Don Mayes
Superintendent, Parkview Baptist School