

Briarwood Academy Drug Policy

Drug Screening Purpose

The purpose of the drug screening program is to aid and assist students. It is not intended to unduly interfere with the student's private life or to bring hardship, but rather to protect the well being of all students. Specific goals of the program are as follows:

- To reassure students, parents, and community that the health, safety, and academic progress of each of its students is the primary goal of Briarwood Academy.
- To prevent drug use and abuse by students of Briarwood Academy.
- To develop a drug-free educational environment and produce students who can serve as role models to influence peers to lead healthy and responsible lives.
- To identify any student who may be using or abusing drugs and to determine the identity of the drug or drugs.
- To educate any student who may be using or abusing drugs as to the possible physical and psychological effects drug use may have, and the possible adverse effects on others with whom the student is associated.
- To provide reasonable safeguards to help insure that every student at Briarwood Academy is mentally and physically competent to participate in school activities.
- To remove the stigma of drug use and abuse from those students who do not use or abuse drugs.

Use

For the purposes of this policy, student refers to any student in grades 8-12. The intent of this policy is to discourage young people from making inappropriate choices regarding the use of illicit drugs. The policy is also designed to reward those students who choose NOT to participate in drug use by allowing them to validate their commitment to a drug free lifestyle. A further positive outcome for the program is to identify those students who, having made a poor choice, need help in understanding the dangers of using/abusing illegal substances and who need help in divesting themselves of a potentially serious problem. A clear offense is one where the student involved exhibits:

- Being caught in the act of using or consuming illegal drugs.
- Obviously under the influence of drug use.
- Drugs or drug paraphernalia found on their person, in their car, or in their possession.
- Direct or circumstantial evidence of possessing, using, or supplying drugs.

Anonymity

Students will be assigned a student identification number and those numbers will be utilized in contact with the selected testing service. The service will not be aware of any student identity during the initial testing procedure. Upon receipt of a positive result, the service will have to receive contact information from the school regarding the student to review the student's medical history in order to insure that the result is not a "false" result.

Procedure

The testing of students will be conducted by a professional testing service. The testing service will complete the test and report the results of the tests to the Briarwood Academy Administration. Briarwood Academy Administration will immediately notify the parent or guardian of any student that has a positive test result and initiate disciplinary action.

Screening

Briarwood Academy uses a urine analysis method for drug testing. All students covered under this policy will be screened for drug usage as follows:

- **Random Screening:** Any student enrolled at Briarwood Academy is subject to screening for drug usage on a randomly selected basis. Consequently, some students may be tested more than once a year. There is no cost to the parent for the random testing. Ten (10) students will be randomly tested per month. The students will be randomly selected for subsequent screening by numerical sampling conducted by the drug testing facility.
- **Transfer Students:** Students in grades 8-12 who transfer to Briarwood Academy during the school year shall submit to screening for drug usage on a date as soon as possible after applying for admission. Admission will only be granted on a probationary status until the screening has taken place and results are obtained showing the absence of drug usage.

Disciplinary Action

Students that commit such actions as defined under the Drug Use Section and/or tested “positive” on a drug screening test have the choice to remain at Briarwood Academy under the following conditions or they may withdraw from Briarwood Academy:

First Offense:

- One year probation which will include drug testing for one (1) year beginning within thirty (30) days of the offense. All costs associated with assessment, treatment, and follow-up testing shall be borne by the student or the student’s parents or guardians.
- Suspension from school for three (3) days.
- Student must prepare a research paper relating to the effects of the illegal drug. This work is to be done while on suspension and the paper, and in some cases presentation, is due when the student returns from the three (3) day suspension. The paper is to be submitted to the Headmaster, who will determine the suitability of the paper.
- Twenty (20) school days suspension from any non-mandatory school-related activities, other than attending classes. This includes, but is not limited to not attending or participating in: social events (i.e., prom, homecoming), sporting events, literary, one-act play, musicals, etc.

Second Offense (within academic career):

The student will be expelled from Briarwood Academy

Retention of Records

No documentation pertaining to each student's screening for drug usage will be made part of the student's permanent record. All documentation will be kept in a separate confidential file with the Headmaster and will be destroyed upon the student's graduation from high school.

Completion of Conditions

All conditions as stated in the above mentioned policies shall be completed in their entirety and within the established time frames. Failure to adhere to this requirement shall be grounds for immediate expulsion from Briarwood Academy.

Refusals

Refusal by a student to be tested will be deemed a violation of the drug policy and shall result in the student being expelled from Briarwood Academy.

Drug Screening Test Appeal Process

If a student does test positive for drug use, the parent and/or guardian may request an additional drug-screening test be performed at their own expense. Because urine testing is only accurate within a short period of time, a hair analysis test shall be the only allowable second screening. Hair testing analyzes the hair shaft, rather than body fluids like urine or saliva, to determine whether illegal drugs are present. Compared to analysis of body fluids, hair testing is highly resistant to evasion by adulterating or substituting samples, or by simply abstaining from drug use for a few days. Hair analysis is superior to urinalysis in that there is a wider window of detection with hair. Cocaine, methamphetamine, opiates, and PCP are rapidly excreted and usually undetectable in urine seventy two (72) hours after use. Rather than the hours or days covered by a body fluid test, a hair test covers a period of months, ensuring that a drug user cannot evade the test by simply abstaining for a few days. So that testing consistency and integrity is maintained, any additional test shall be within a time frame and procedure set by the school Headmaster. A copy of the results shall be submitted directly from the testing agency to the Headmaster.

