

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICIES

It is the contention of faculty, staff, and administration that students learn best when they are not suffering from the influences of drug and alcohol abuse. The policies outlined in this section have, at their center, the desire to help our students make the best decisions possible during their time at Rockhurst High School. It is our hope that our policies foster a lifelong understanding of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

We understand that developmental issues, on occasion, impede adolescents from making sound decisions. Given this reality in the lives of the adolescents in our care, we have employed a two-part policy concerning the use of drugs and alcohol by our students. The first set of policies is designed to foster a community of drug and alcohol free learners who are well on their way to understanding how to make appropriate decisions concerning the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol. The second set of policies is designed to intervene in the life a student who chooses to bring drugs and/or alcohol onto campus or chooses to attend an off-campus RHS event under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

We believe that responsible alcohol use is a privilege, not a right, and the right to consume alcohol begins at age 21. We also believe that the use of illicit drugs is never acceptable. Further, we contend that drug and alcohol use is not part of “normal adolescent development,” and Rockhurst flatly rejects the notion that students need to learn to drink before they go to college. It is never appropriate for students to possess drugs and/or alcohol or for families to provide opportunities for alcohol consumption to minors. Parents who turn a blind eye toward teenage alcohol use in their homes are violating the law in both Kansas and Missouri. It is our contention as professional educators that adolescents do not have a right to engage in drug and/or alcohol use. Possession of drugs and/or alcohol is illegal, can lead to legal problems, and will have an impact on developmental and academic progress. Studies have repeatedly shown that the longer individuals wait to use alcohol and/or experiment with drugs, the higher the chances that they will not have problems with alcohol and/or drugs. Further, studies have shown that alcohol is the true gateway drug, and our own self study done in 2012 bears this out.

In both sets of policies, it must be clearly stated: any student who sells drugs on our campus will be subject to immediate expulsion.

I. Drug and Alcohol Policies Part One: Student Self-Report

Rockhurst believes that every student should have the opportunity to seek assistance regarding any issues with drugs and alcohol. School counselors are always available and willing to discuss student concerns/questions regarding others or their own use. Counselors can provide outside resources to students/parents and can help coordinate contact if needed.

II. Drug and Alcohol Policies Part Two: Health and Wellness Model

Rockhurst High School strives to be a community where our students are empowered to make responsible choices concerning the role of alcohol and drugs in their lives. Our desire is for a drug/alcohol free student body. To this end, all students at Rockhurst High School are subject to mandatory random drug/alcohol testing throughout their four years at the school. The test will provide evidence of binge drinking. The information gathered will be shared with parents and will be used to help the students make positive choices.

We are so convinced of the good that will come from our desire to be a drug/alcohol free school that we are committed to state that positive results from the random test in our Health and Wellness Model will not lead to automatic disciplinary consequences. It is our hope that students who test positive will get the help necessary to return to good health.

Process of the Health and Wellness Model:

While it is the hope that our students will be making healthy choices concerning drugs and/or alcohol, we understand some may not. Below is an outline of the process used in Rockhurst High School's program.

- Several times a year, especially after breaks and days off, Rockhurst High School will randomly choose a group of students to submit for drug/ alcohol testing; Rockhurst will use a hair sample to determine use of drugs and/or alcohol. The school has employed the services of Psychemedics, a drug/alcohol testing company, to provide the result of the analysis of the hair samples. Testing will begin as soon as the opening convocations in August and will continue throughout the school year.
- All samples will be sent to Psychemedics for analysis and the results will be sent to the Director of Guidance. As a Health and Wellness Program, the Dean of Students or the Principal will not be informed of the initial results.
- For those students whose results are negative, the Assistant Principal for Student Life will send a "Letter of Negative Status" home to parents with the date of testing indicated.
- For those students whose results are positive for drug and/or alcohol use, the student's guidance counselor will request an immediate meeting with student and parents and the following will apply:

A. First Positive:

Students whose test results yield a positive for some drug and/or alcohol use will do the following:

1. The student's guidance counselor will request a meeting with the student and at least one parent.
2. Students and parents will be given the information gleaned from the analysis of the hair sample by the guidance counselor. **As this is a Health and Wellness program, there will be no disciplinary consequences at this time;** the purpose of the meeting is to encourage the family to seek the necessary help and interventions.
 - a. Since the first positive is considered a guidance/family conversation, there will be no consequences for participation in co-curricular activities given by the school for a first positive.
3. Counselors will provide names of drug and alcohol programs if the family desires. This list is provided as a courtesy and Rockhurst does not endorse one therapist or program over another.
4. Students will have the option to meet with the school's child psychologist.
5. Students with a "First Positive" result will be tested again in 90 calendar days.
 - a. If the First Positive 90 day re-test results are negative, the student will be placed back in the random pool of test participants.
 - b. If the first positive 90 day re-test results are positive, the student will be placed in the second positive category.
6. Please note: all testing required after the initial random test will be invoiced to the family.

Note: Students who successfully complete a drug intervention program and who maintain a negative status as described above will be placed back into the random pool for future testing. If these individuals test positive at any time during their remaining years at Rockhurst, they will be considered a disciplinary risk and placed in the category of a "Second Positive".

B. Second Positive:

If after the first positive the test results are again positive for some drug and/or alcohol use, it will be considered a "Second Positive".

1. Upon notification of the second positive, the Dean of Students will be consulted to determine if the student may continue in our rehabilitation program. At this juncture, a full examination of the student's disciplinary record will be reviewed.
2. It may be determined that it is impossible for the student to remain at Rockhurst.
3. If permitted to continue matriculating at Rockhurst, the second positive result will require the family and student to see Rockhurst's child psychologist to determine what caused the failure of the drug remediation program after the first positive. The family and student must follow the recommendations of the school's child psychologist including any and all treatment or rehabilitation programs.
 - a. A second positive result will be reported to the Athletic Director and the Assistant Principal for Student Affairs. The student may be ineligible for all co-curricular activities until he tests negative.
 - b. If the reinstated student wishes to participate in a co-curricular activity after its tryout period, the administration or the coaching/moderating staff will determine whether the student will be able to undergo a tryout period.
4. Students who are charged with a second positive, and permitted to remain at the school, must meet with the school's child psychologist as recommended during the next 90 days.
5. Failure to follow the child psychologists' recommendations concerning a treatment program and/or refusal/failure to attend sessions with the school's child psychologist may jeopardize a student's continued matriculation at Rockhurst High School.
6. Students with a second positive will be tested again in 90 calendar days at the family's expense.
 - a. If the second positive 90 day re-test results are negative, the student will be released from all therapeutic obligations (unless the family chooses to continue) and tested again in 45 Days.
 - b. If the 45 day re-test results are also negative, the student will be placed back in the random pool of test participants.
 - c. If either the second positive 90 or 45 day re-test results are positive, the student will be placed in the "Third Positive" category.

Note: Students who successfully complete a drug intervention program and who maintain a negative status as described above will be placed back into the random pool for future testing. If these individuals test positive at any time during their remaining years at Rockhurst, they will be considered a disciplinary risk and placed in the category of a "Third Positive".

C. Third Positive:

If after the second positive the test results are again positive for some drug and/or alcohol use, it will be considered a "Third Positive".

1. The school will have no choice but to assume that despite nearly a year of evaluation and support given to them, the family and the student are not making a good faith effort to improve.
2. A third positive will move the conversation from Health and Wellness to Discipline. A third positive will indicate to the school unwillingness on the part of the family and student to seek the help needed to remain drug free.
3. A third positive will lead to dismissal from Rockhurst High School.

First Positive	Second Positive	Third Positive
Meeting with Guidance Counselor and parents	Required sessions with RHS psychologist for student and family. Dean of Students will be included in the conversation to determine if continued matriculation is possible. The student may be ineligible for all co-curricular activities until he tests negative.	Conversations moves from Health and Wellness to Disciplinary.
Meeting with school psychologist	Must follow recommendations of RHS child psychologist regarding rehabilitation programs.	Student will be dismissed from Rockhurst.
Family seeks drug rehabilitation program	Failure to follow any program recommendations will place matriculation in immediate jeopardy.	
Retested in 90 Days	Retested in 90 Days	
If negative, placed back in random testing pool. If positive, charged with a second positive.	If negative, retested in an additional 45 days; if again negative, placed back in random testing pool. If positive, charged with a third positive."	

III. Drug and Alcohol Policies Part Three: Disciplinary Program

In all areas of student discipline, it is incumbent on the administration of a Jesuit high school to seek the formation of the young man in our care. In many matters of discipline, detention or occasional probation periods are necessary. The use of drugs and/or alcohol at school or at school events is a significantly more complicated disciplinary issue. In the cases of drugs and alcohol, both activities are illegal and may require the school to involve law enforcement personnel. As such, the school’s response is complex.

When the offense includes drugs and/or alcohol at school, on a school sponsored trip, retreat or event, at an off-campus event where RHS is the guest, or at any time where the student is under the care and supervision of Rockhurst High School, the severity of the offense increases significantly. We believe that responsible alcohol use is a privilege, not a right, and the right to consume alcohol begins at age 21. We also believe that the use of illicit drugs is never acceptable. Further we contend that drug and alcohol use is not part of “normal adolescent development,” and Rockhurst flatly rejects the notion that students need to learn to drink before they go to college. It is never appropriate for students to possess drug and/or alcohol or for families to provide opportunities for alcohol consumption to minors. Parents who turn a blind eye toward teenage alcohol use in their homes are violating the law in both Kansas and Missouri. It is our contention as professional educators that adolescents do not have a right to engage in drug and/or alcohol use. Possession of drugs and/or alcohol is illegal and can lead to legal problems and will have an impact on developmental and academic progress.

Families and students should be aware that local police jurisdictions send MIP (Minor in Possession) reports directly to the school. Such offenses, though not directly involving RHS, may have far-reaching consequences at school. When students are arrested or detained for drug and/or alcohol offenses

outside of school, it indirectly damages the reputation of the school. Repeated MIP offences may lead to dismissal from Rockhurst High School.

It is important to note that the selling or distribution of drugs at Rockhurst High School or at events off campus will result in immediate dismissal (without appeal). The selling of drugs to classmates is antithetical to what it means to be a “man for others” and destroys the trust necessary to build the type of community RHS strives to create. There is no place at Rockhurst for those who actively seek to diminish our community.

Any student who knowingly possesses, uses, transmits, or is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during school hours, on the school grounds at any time, or at any school-sponsored event is liable for dismissal from Rockhurst. The use of alcohol by a minor, the distribution of alcohol to a minor by an adult, and the use of any controlled substance are all against the law and are considered serious misconduct at Rockhurst. The school reserves the right to randomly test for drug and alcohol usage at school and school-sponsored events.

- For the first offense, a student will be suspended from school and will remain suspended until a parent conference with the Dean of Students is held to discuss the student’s continued attendance at Rockhurst High School. If the student is allowed to remain in attendance at Rockhurst High School, the student will serve 14 JUGs (detentions), will be placed on Disciplinary Probation, will be required to undergo an alcohol/drug assessment, and will be required to meet any other requirements decided upon by the Dean of Students.
- All testing and counseling sessions shall be the financial responsibility of the student’s parents.
- Subsequent violation of this policy within a student's four years at Rockhurst may result in expulsion.

Additionally:

- After the interview (assessment) is complete, the alcohol/drug counselor will make a recommendation regarding appropriate treatment. Depending upon the individual situation, outcomes may include any or all of the following: ten-hour educational program, outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment at any alcohol/drug facility, as well as suspension from school, JUGs, disciplinary probation, dismissal from Rockhurst, or other appropriate action consistent with the situation.
- If the student and/or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) refuse to have the assessment interview, or refuse to follow the assessment recommendations, the student will be required to withdraw from Rockhurst.

Rockhurst High School reserves the right to call emergency medical personnel to transport intoxicated or drug-impaired individuals to the nearest hospital emergency room. Any costs associated with such emergency response are the responsibility of the student’s family.

Tobacco Policy

Tobacco is a controlled substance for minors and is, therefore, prohibited to students on campus and at school-related functions. Violators of the policy will receive a Discipline Referral, three JUGs, are subject to suspension.

Electronic cigarettes are considered drug paraphernalia, and possession of one on campus or at a school sponsored event will result in suspension.