

Dear Parents:

Over the past several months the Kentucky Enquirer recently published several articles about the rampant use, danger and impacts that heroin and opioids are having on our community. For several months the administration, our faculty and staff, and school board have discussed the continued health and safety of our students. This has prompted us to develop additional steps to provide our students with education and tools to continue to stay drug free.

We are introducing additional parts to our proactive approach to confront the social pressures of drug and alcohol use. Research indicates the biggest reason that students get involved with drugs or alcohol is peer pressure. The program will include educational opportunities through the year and along with a Drug Free Testing program called Drug Free Club of America. This program is a tool that will provide parents a comfort knowing your child is drug free and provide your child a proven tool to use to say NO. As a school we will integrate the Drug Free Club of America program and a form will be sent home to ask you and your child to join the program. There is a \$35 yearly fee to join the club which will cover all aspects of the program.

This will require parents or legal guardian to open or continue a conversation between you and your child about the use of alcohol and drugs, discuss the positive aspects of joining the Drug Free Club, then notify school of your decision to join. This program gives your child an additional tool to say no when confronted with the decision to try drugs by simply saying "I can't" and be rewarded for it. Upon successful completion of a drug test your student will be issued a Drug Free America Card stating their participation in this program and validating their drug free lifestyle. As an incentive The Drug Free America Card is recognized by local businesses and provides discounts at their business as well and incentives and rewards at school. Membership into the Drug Free Club of America has been used on college applications and resumes and added as talking points to their job and college interviews.

All test results are between you and your child. **Holy Cross High School is not informed of the results.** If for some reason your child doesn't pass the test Holy Cross has a confidential drug referral program in place to help you determine the best way to help your child. I encourage you to read the "Drug and Alcohol Policy" in the student handbook which is located on the school website. ([www.hchscov.com](http://www.hchscov.com))

We are extremely excited about this program it has been approved by the Diocese of Covington and is being implemented at other Catholic high schools in the Diocese. To learn more about this program please visit [www.drugfreeamerica.com](http://www.drugfreeamerica.com). Also enclosed is an envelope from Drug Free Club of America which includes more detailed information and an application form.

If you have any questions about this program please contact me or Ms. Reardon.

Sincerely,

Mike Holtz