



CREIGHTON PREP

Forming Men of Faith, Scholarship, Leadership and Service

Dear Creighton Prep alumni, parents and friends,

We pray that the beginning of 2014 finds you and your families doing well. As you know, one of the things that makes Creighton Prep so important to all of us is its commitment, as a community, to living the Jesuit philosophy of education. This philosophy includes striving for “the magis” or “the more” as we practice *cura personalis*, or “care for the whole person,” in our mission to form men of faith, scholarship, leadership and service.

To this end over the past decade, we have offered our students both new opportunities in the classroom and the first pieces of a developing health and wellness program that includes testing for steroids, the Fitness for Life course sequence and concussion testing. To this health and wellness program, we will add mandatory and random drug and alcohol testing at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.

The decision to add drug and alcohol testing comes after years of participation in the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey, which confirms adolescents are confronted by a culture of permissiveness and misinformation about drugs and alcohol and their risks. More recent discussions with various Prep constituencies and other Catholic and Jesuit high schools also contributed to the decision, as did information on the vulnerability of young people to these substances, especially via peer pressure, and reflection on how we could complement efforts by parents to dissuade children from use.

Starting in August 2014, hair samples will be collected and tested for binge drinking, marijuana, PCPs, amphetamines, cocaine and opiates. We believe the large majority of our students will test negative, with some using the new policy to open or advance constructive discussions with their families, school counselors and teachers. For those who test positive, a program of evaluation and support begins, with additional testing in 90 days. In the case of a second positive test, a review for disciplinary action becomes part of the process. A third positive test results in dismissal from Prep.

In short, our goal is to compassionately form a healthy young man who has negotiated the external pressures of adolescence in becoming an adult in the service of others, guided primarily by a strong set of internal values.

We look forward to caring for our students in this new way and to your support for an initiative already in place at a number of other Jesuit high schools. For additional information on the new drug and alcohol testing policy at Prep, visit www.creightonprep.org/wellness.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Giambelluca
President
Creighton Prep

John C. Naatz
Principal
Creighton Prep

Rev. Thomas Neitzke, S.J.
Board Chair
CP Governing Board