

Lake Highland Preparatory School Drug and Alcohol Policy

The Lake Highland community's commitment to the development of the whole student includes a commitment to educating students about, and protecting them from, the dangers of illegal use of alcohol and drugs. Knowing the devastating consequences of such abuse for the individual, family and school community, Lake Highland is committed to a three fold approach of education, counseling and discipline.

Education

Educational approaches include regular training for counselors and faculty in substance abuse recognition and prevention. Students have opportunities to join in extra-curricular clubs and activities with substance abuse prevention goals. Specific academic courses and athletic character education programs include substance abuse emphasis. Entering freshmen participate in an on-line substance abuse education program.

Counseling

As part of our counseling response to student abuse issues, counselors are committed to working with faculty to identify students at risk and actively seek help for such students. When a student is suspected of drug or alcohol abuse his or her parents will be contacted. Apart from at school counseling, help for the student might include administrative requirements that a student receive counseling and/or drug testing for up to a year, or until released by the counselor providing services. If there is a second positive identification of alcohol or other drug use, the student will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include dismissal.

Discipline

Lake Highland continues to enforce a drug free environment for its campuses, adjoining properties and off campus events. Students who are found to be in possession of alcohol, drugs or related paraphernalia on campus, (in cars, backpacks, lockers, pockets etc.) or at an official school related function such as a dance, community service project, athletic event, field trips, educational travel, or any other type of school competition or event will be dismissed from the school.

Dismissal from school will also apply to

- Students who are proven to be the source of the above referenced items although they may not be in physical possession at the time of discovery.
- Students found to be in possession of drugs, alcohol or paraphernalia in the immediate vicinity of the school campus.
- Students known to have trafficked in drugs or alcohol.
- Students arrested for or convicted of offenses related to illegal possession of drugs or alcohol

When the school has credible evidence, these activities will result in suspension:

(The school does not intend to act as a “policeman” for off-campus activities, however, we will not ignore reported behavior that poses physical risks to our students or brings discredit to the school’s name in the community. We will investigate incidents when we have police reports, hospital admission reports, or substantiated reports from numerous sources. When an issue arises, we urge parents to talk directly with their children and to try to resolve the issue with the parents of other LHPS children who may have been involved before calling us to conduct an investigation. Here are some examples of student off-campus behavior that could result in suspension:)

- Hosting a party where alcohol or drugs are known to have been supplied, welcomed or tolerated by the host student.
- Bringing unwelcome drugs or alcohol to a party or social gathering.
- Providing alcohol or drugs to others in any social interaction.
- Being involved in any incident in which alcohol or drugs are known to have caused injury or to have posed danger to students (due to overdose, DUI, or other factors), or in which the scope of the activity is such as to bring dishonor to LHPS in the wider community (for example if police or emergency workers are present or the press reports).

NOTES:

School suspension has implications for athletic and other extracurricular involvement, as well as for notification of colleges during the application process.

If the school deems any of the above referenced activities to be egregious, the penalty may result in dismissal rather than suspension.

Parental/Family responsibility:

When it is known or suspected that alcohol or drugs have been served or allowed to students in a Lake Highland family’s home, the parents of the family will be contacted by the administration. If the school is convinced by credible evidence (such as repeated offenses) that the family does not intend to conform to norms of the school community, the family may be asked to withdraw entirely from the community.