

ADELANTE

EMPOWERING STUDENTS
TO MAKE HEALTHY LIFE CHOICES



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DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE
PREVENTION PROGRAM



**“TO EDUCATE CHILDREN YOU
MUST LOVE THEM AND LOVE
THEM ALL EQUALLY”**

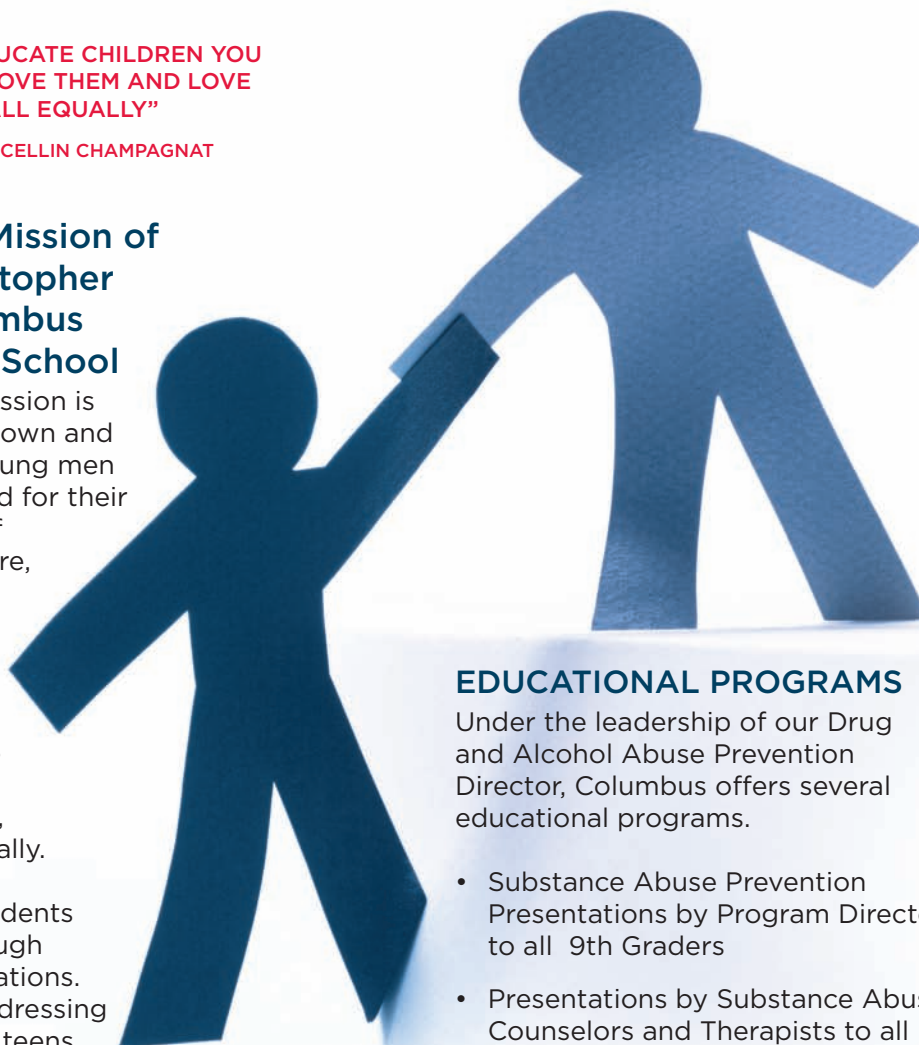
- ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

The Mission of Christopher Columbus High School

Our mission is to make Jesus Christ known and loved, as we prepare young men for higher education and for their continuous challenge of harmonizing faith, culture, and life. Our school is dedicated to providing a safe and supportive learning environment where services are available to help students develop academically, spiritually, physically, and emotionally.

Our counselors help students navigate their way through teenage issues and situations. These issues include addressing the social pressure that teens face regarding drug and alcohol use and educating them about the dangers of these substances.

Drugs and alcohol are intolerable at Columbus; yet, we recognize that today's youth live in a society where drug and alcohol abuse exists. National statistics and popular culture indicate that drug use is a danger and as a community, we want to combat it. We believe that it is part of our mission to help our students make positive, healthy choices and to offer them and their parents resources to help prevention.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Under the leadership of our Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Director, Columbus offers several educational programs.

- Substance Abuse Prevention Presentations by Program Director to all 9th Graders
- Presentations by Substance Abuse Counselors and Therapists to all 10th Graders
- Drinking and Driving Under the Influence Prevention Presentations by Program Director, Miami-Dade Police, and Baptist Hospital to all 11th and 12th Graders
- Parent Information Meetings co-sponsored by Informed Families
- Red Ribbon Alcohol and Drug Awareness Week (public service announcements air on the school's TV station, posters and banners are displayed around campus, and special presentations are made).



National Statistics Show:

- 33% of high school students use marijuana
- 40% of children who begin using marijuana at the age of 14 develop an addiction
- 72% of high school students with an A or B average did not use marijuana
- 80% have personally witnessed illegal use, possession and dealing of drugs



CCHS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions, formerly known as Students Against Drunk Driving) - aims to provide students with the best prevention tools possible to deal with the issues of underage drinking, other drug use, impaired driving and other destructive decisions. The Columbus chapter of SADD has been in existence since 2004.

Miami-Dade Police “Don’t Let Alcohol Be Your Last Taste Of Life Program” - educates high school students on the consequences of underage drinking by presenting the prevention message by way of poster contests, slide presentations of actual crashes, multimedia presentations, classroom presentations, and alcohol related crash reenactments at schools. CCHS has participated in this program since 2004.

Informed Families - an educational training and support center for parents, schools and communities to help raise safe, healthy and drug-free children. CCHS has partnered with this organization since 2004.

DRUG TESTING

After carefully analyzing the positive results of drug testing in schools nationwide, Columbus has decided to implement a mandatory drug testing policy as an enhancement to the school’s existing education and prevention initiatives. While we believe that our students fall statistically well below the national averages for high school drug use, we want to do all that we can to help secure the safety and well-being of the young men in our care. Research shows that drug testing is a powerful deterrent to drug use.

The primary purpose for this policy is to give students another reason to say “no” to drugs and to aid them in remaining drug-free.

As a private school we have an advantage in our ability to offer this program. We feel this is a proactive step toward preventing a potential problem. If we were to encounter any positive test results it would give our school the chance to intervene and assist parents in finding help for their sons.

HOW DOES THE DRUG TESTING WORK?

Students will be tested by hair analysis which will involve a simple small snip of hair from the student. This method was chosen because it has consistently proven to be the most effective method in correctly identifying drug use and is the most cost effective and least invasive technique. The test will screen for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines (both ecstasy and methamphetamines), and phencyclidine (PCP). Additionally, the test will identify a range of use (light, moderate, or heavy) and it can also provide the window of time of the use. Students will be randomly selected for the drug testing throughout the year. Once a student is tested, his name is returned to the collective pool for further selections. When a student tests negative, a letter with the good news is sent to the family as confirmation.

If a student tests positive, the family is contacted by the Program Director to schedule a confidential conference that addresses the following:

- Explanation of test results including type of drug, level of use, and window of time of use.
- Counseling options to assess the level of intervention, if counseling is appropriate.
- Retesting, which is required 100 days after a positive test (at the parent's expense).

If a student tests positive a second time the Program Director will inform the Principal. A meeting will then be held with the Principal, the student, and the family, to determine a course of action.



“As a Columbus parent and administrator, I am thankful that Columbus offers this program. It empowers and educates our students, helping them to make positive decisions.”

- Mr. David Pugh,
Dean of Students

OPEN DOOR POLICY

If there is any student who is presently involved with drug use, he is encouraged to seek help by speaking confidentially with a member of the guidance department, or the administration, so the school can assist him in becoming drug free.