

# MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Office of the Superintendent of Schools*

59 Tindall Road, Middletown, NJ 07748

(732) 671-3850

Fax (732) 615-9351

**Karen L. Bilbao**  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

**William J. Doering**  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary

To The Parent/Guardian of:  
High School North and South student

November 17, 2006

Dear Middletown High School North and South Parents and Guardians:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the District Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Program approved by your Board of Education on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. As you most likely already know, over the course of the past year the district researched and developed this policy with the input of experts, administrators, professional staff, parents and students. We held a series of public information sessions and after receiving input from all participants, the policy and procedures were revised and the final version was approved by the Board of Education. I have enclosed a copy of the policy and procedures for your information. The policy is not intended to be punitive. Consistent with new statutes, NJAC 18A:40A-23, a Board of Education may adopt a policy for students in grades 9-12 who participate in extra-curricular activities, including athletics, or who possess school parking permits. Consequences may only be tied to the removal of privileges. Parents may also voluntarily consent to students' participation in the random testing program, even for students who are not involved in extra-curricular activities or parking. The intent of the policy is to deter drug and alcohol use among our high school students and will allow for early detection and intervention if a positive result is discovered. Any student who is identified with a confirmed positive result through these testing procedures will receive appropriate intervention designed by a Substance Awareness Coordinator. Students are not suspended from school or subject to police notification procedures.

This policy is an additional component of our ongoing substance prevention programs, including the "Bottlecappers Program" that trains high school students to provide peer lessons to middle and elementary school students on the dangers of drug and alcohol use. We have a D.A.R.E. program in conjunction with the police department. This Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy will be an additional effort to help our students stay safe and drug/alcohol free. We are hopeful that this program will further improve our school climate and help our students achieve their optimal potential.

The enclosed Consent Form should be reviewed with your child as it will need to be signed and returned by December 4, 2006 to your child's Club Advisor, Coach or Assistant Principal (in the case of a parking privilege), if your child wishes to participate in any extra-curricular activity. Additionally, you may also decide to have your child volunteer to be part of our testing pool, even if he or she does not participate in any sport, club, or park on campus, by signing the consent form and having your child return it to his/her Assistant Principal.

We are hopeful that you will partner with us, your school district, in helping your child stay safe and drug and alcohol free.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Bilbao  
Interim Superintendent  
Middletown Township Public Schools

Enclosures