

August 14, 2013



St. Viator High School In Illinois To Start Testing Students For Alcohol

Huffington Post | By Rebecca Klein

Posted: 08/06/2013 2:41 pm EDT | Updated: 08/06/2013 3:38 pm EDT

Students at [St. Viator High School](#) in Illinois will be taking a new test this fall that does not necessitate any late-night cramming or No. 2 pencils. They will be taking an alcohol consumption test, which will use hair samples to determine if they've drunk alcohol in the past 90 days.

The private, Catholic school has randomly tested students for drugs since 2007, according to the Chicago Tribune. However, [this year it will also test its 1,000 students for alcohol](#), a move the school believes is unprecedented in Illinois.

"[We're adding this test because we care about our kids](#) and we want them to be the that best God created them to be," Corey Brost, St. Viator president, told a Chicago CBS affiliate.

The American Civil Liberties Union [has typically opposed schools that conduct alcohol consumption tests](#) on the basis that it is an invasion of privacy. However, because St. Viator is a private school, the ACLU recognizes that administrators are free to implement the policies of their choosing, according to the station.

"We have a mechanism for controlling the behavior of young people outside school -- they're called parents," ACLU representative Ed Yohnka told the Chicago Tribune. "I don't think we need for schools to be acting as uber-parents."

Still, the outlet notes that even among private schools, testing students' hair for alcohol is atypical. Instead, some schools use Breathalyzers to test students at major school events, Myra McGovern of the National Association of Independent Schools told the Tribune.

Students who are found to have alcohol in their system will have to take a second test after 90 days. If they fail the test a second time, [they will face some form of punishment to be determined on a case-by-case basis](#), the Chicago Daily Herald reports.

"We want to give kids a good reason to say, 'No, I can't drink, St. Viator tests for alcohol,'" Brost said to the outlet.

Parents are largely in favor of the action, the outlet reports. The test will not detect Communion wine.

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10YearTeacher

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And how on earth can these tests not detect the alcohol in Communion wine?

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In reply to: 10YearTeacher

Donna McGregor

SUPER USER · 159 Fans · Blissfully Sedated

Did the Pope bless it?

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:13 PM Flag

In reply to: [10YearTeacher](#)



Yet Another Steve

57 Fans

7

It's a Catholic school. Catholics don't get the wine, just the wafer.

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:18 PM Flag



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bojorco

22 Fans

4

1

"We want to give kids a good reason to say, 'No, I can't drink, St. Viator tests for alcohol,'"

That's a good reason? Fear of punishment?

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:17 PM Flag

In reply to: [bojorco](#)



Dempsteb

11 Fans

8

Every single bit of being a "good christian" is about fear of punishment.

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:35 PM Flag

In reply to: [bojorco](#)



Not2BeFooled

169 Fans

1

Welcome to Christianity 101

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10YearTeacher

72 Fans

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2

What hooley. Even if it is a private school, it is an invasion of their right to privacy. Students don't necessarily have control over where they go to school, so the whole "it's their choice to go there" argument is moot.

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In reply to: [10YearTeacher](#)



sdawesome

2 Fans

1

2

I wondered the same. Hair tests look for alcohol, they can't tell whether it is alcohol meant to be the "blood of God" or just normal alcohol. I suppose that gives the kids an excuse.. "Father I swear all I did was go to communion and drink the blood of Christ three times a week!"

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In reply to: [sdawesome](#)

Amanda Luke

2 Fans

3

Oooh! Oooh! I know! Transubstantiation! The communion wine is actually human blood so it won't pop a positive! :-D

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sac07040

55 Fans

4 1

So how much alcohol DOES register on this test, if communion wine does not? What about cases where a teen is allowed an occasional glass of wine in their own home? (This is perfectly legal and should not be grounds for any sort of discipline.)

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:05 PM Flag

In reply to: [sac07040](#)



Irene Fisher

67 Fans

2 3

European kids are allowed wine all the time at special occasions, that way they learn the responsible way to drink, not the stupid, hypocritical way we teach kids over here.

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:43 PM Flag

In reply to: [Irene Fisher](#)



Pavane

3,242 Fans · I pick my battles and walk from the rest.

2

Yes.

I think Europeans are into living and Americans are into punishment.

Just my opinion as I've lived in both worlds.

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 10:18 PM Flag



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banks ray

6 Fans

5 3

Shaves head. Waddup now teach??

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:07 PM Flag

In reply to: [banks ray](#)

Heather Bowles

SUPER USER · 67 Fans · Conservative, charitable, Christian, Democrat.

4

Leg hair. YANK!

Reply Fave Share 7 Aug 1:20 AM Flag

In reply to: [Heather Bowles](#)

Lulu0418

263 Fans · Better to reign in hell, than serve in heav'n

3

If I recall, lots of high school aged boys shaved their legs... something to do with

aerodynamics and football...

Reply Fave Share 7 Aug 12:00 PM Flag

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Pamela Brumbaugh

1 4

33 Fans · Voice for the animals.

Obviously, one of their benefactors owns or has stock in the testing company.

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 6:49 PM Flag

In reply to: [Pamela Brumbaugh](#)



zevonia

443 Fans

Good one. You are probably correct. They is sure to be a money angle in this somewhere.

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 11:27 PM Flag

Third-World-Man

2

829 Fans

How does the test NOT detect sacramental wine?

Sounds fishy to me.

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:20 PM Flag

Third-World-Man

8 1

829 Fans

What about boys who shave their heads?

Can they drink and go undetected?

What about children going through chemotherapy?

This is hokey.

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:22 PM Flag

In reply to: [Third-World-Man](#)



Irene Fisher

67 Fans

4

Why a lot of guys shave their heads...girls? well another way to discriminate against us!

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:39 PM Flag

In reply to: [Irene Fisher](#)

Third-World-Man

1 1

829 Fans

Yeah!
Girls! Shave your heads!

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:54 PM Flag



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trevor1953

8 Fans

2

hope there are no Irish stdents

Reply Fave Share 7 Aug 7:43 AM Flag

Donna McGregor

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1 1

This is a complete invasion of privacy and crossing a major boundary. Who told them they could play Judge, jury and executioner? Totally outrageous. Wow.

Reply Fave Share 6 Aug 4:15 PM Flag

In reply to: **Donna McGregor**

Gary WA

15 Fans

Religion is why they can do what they want!

Reply Fave Share 7 Aug 7:47 PM Flag

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