

Newton North High School Extra-Curricular Chemical Health Policy

Chemical Health

This Spring a committee of NNHS educators and parents have been meeting to revise our chemical health policy. Our current policy focused solely on athletics as part of the MIAA requirements. Based on some alcohol and vaping related incidents this past year it was clear that we needed to update our policy. Here are some highlights.

- Any Newton North student who participates in athletics, theater or performance based club (Ligerbots, Math Team, Mock Trial, etc.) are subject to the consequences of this policy.
- Students will be suspended from participation if they consume alcohol, tobacco products or drugs on or off campus.
- Students may be punished if they are in the presence of alcohol, tobacco products or drugs on or off campus
- In many situations students can reduce a suspension if participate in counseling.

Thank you to the committee members: Jodie Cohen (Chair), Nick Pfeifer, Courtney Albert, Ali Malkin, Adam Brown, Tom Giusti, Scott Heslin, Bussy Adam, Sally Brickell, Jenny Chou, Todd Young and Mike Hazeltine

Below is the full policy, which will be included in the Newton North Handbook.

Statement of Purpose:

Every student involved in Athletics, Theatre, Performance and Competitive based clubs, and other extra-curricula's have a responsibility as leaders to reflect the ideals and expectations of Newton North High School on and off campus. The mission of the Newton North High School chemical health policy is to support, encourage, and empower students to make wise, healthy, and legally sound decisions. A violation of the chemical health policy during any part of the year impacts ALL activities the student is involved in and may impact any activities later in the year.

The Chemical Health Policy is designed to:

- Insure the social-emotional, safety, and physical health of all students;
- Establish a safe environment for all students who may be exposed to chemical health substances and paraphernalia inside and outside of school
- Educate and challenge student leaders and those in extracurricular activities to model healthy and legal choices while encouraging peers to do the same.

Definition of a Chemical Health Violation:

A chemical health violation includes the illegal possession, use, buying, selling and/or being under the influence of any drugs and drug paraphernalia. Drugs are defined as tobacco and tobacco products or other nicotine delivery systems such as vaporizers

(juuls, phix, etc.) or e-cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, marijuana products, illegal drugs, performance enhancing drugs, or medications without a prescription for the user or use not in accordance to prescription directions.

Definition of “in the presence of” or at a gathering where alcohol or other drugs are being illegally consumed:

If a student attends a gathering where alcohol or other drugs are being illegally dispensed, the student must **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY**. To remain in the presence of this illegal activity shall constitute a violation of the Chemical Health Policy. A student that is at a gathering or with other students using alcohol or other drugs, whether or not said student is using, is considered to be **“in the presence of.”**

Student Accountability:

All Students at NNHS who violate the Chemical Health Policy are subject to consequences stated in the NPS Rights and Responsibility handbook and will be adjudicated by the school administration.

The Chemical Health Policy and Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities:

At Newton North High School it is a privilege to have the opportunity to participate in such a wide range of offerings such as Athletics, Theatre, Clubs, Publications and Student Government to name a few. Being a part of an organization as a member or leader comes with a responsibility to model and reflect the values of Newton North High School. Each activity at Newton North is different in its scope, time commitment, and level of involvement. With that in mind Newton North High School has developed a consequence and support system that will be consistent, but apply directly to the needs of each individual area of participation.

I. Athletics:

Student Athletes on teams or competition-based clubs (ex: ultimate Frisbee, badminton, etc.) will be subject to:

- The Newton North High School Chemical Health Policy;
- Alcohol and other drug policies as stated in the Newton Public Schools Rights and Responsibility handbook;
- The rules and regulations governing athletics of the MIAA, rules 62.1 – 62.3 & 32.8.

Violations of the Chemical Health Policy Consequences:

Any student athlete who violates the Chemical Health Policy will be subject to the following consequences:

- Meet with school administration and be given due process and potential consequences stated in the Newton Public Schools Rights and Responsibility Handbook;

- Meet with the Principal, Athletic Director, and parents/guardians to discuss the violation, necessary supports, and potential consequences;
- Meet with school prevention/intervention counselor.

1st violation (in addition to consequences listed, from MIAA Rule 62.1):

When the Principal/Athletic Director confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, penalties will be determined by the current or next season of participation. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. Any fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season.

2nd and subsequent violations (in addition to consequences listed, from MIAA Rule 62.1):

When the Principal/Athletic Director confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, penalties will be determined by the current or next season of participation. Any fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season.

If after the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events provided the student was fully engaged in the program throughout that penalty period. The high school Principal/Athletic Director in collaboration with a Chemical Dependency Program or Treatment Program must certify that the student is attending or issue a certificate of completion. If student does not complete the program, the penalty reverts back to 60% of the season. All decimal part of an event will be dropped when calculating the percentage of the season.

Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year, but serving the penalty could carry over for one year. Or, if the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year. (E.g. A student plays only football: he violates the rule in winter and/or the spring of same academic year: he would serve the penalty(ies) during the fall season of the next academic year.)

“In the presence of” violations:

On the first violation that a student is found to be in the presence of or at a gathering where alcohol or other drugs are being illegally dispensed the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 10% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. If there is a 2nd violation the student will lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport.

Note: The student is strongly encouraged to be open, honest, and cooperative during an investigation, which may lead to alternative consequences.

II. Theatre Ink:

Theatre Ink's Chemical Health Policy expectations and consequences are designed to support the well being of all theatre students whether or not they are currently involved. Our main goal is to work collaboratively with Students, Parent/Guardians, Administrators, Teachers, Staff, and outside resources to ensure a student's social, emotional and physical safety. With that, students will also be accountable for their actions, and how decision-making affects their responsibility to their peers, a production process and the program as a whole.

Theatre Ink expects all participants to:

- Model a positive example of responsible behavior and good decision making in regards to chemical health;
- Influence and empower peers to make wise and legally sound decisions;
- Be accountable for their actions and how the impact of these decisions affects their peers, a production process, and the program as a whole.

Violations of the Chemical Health Policy Consequences:

Any student in Theatre Ink who violates the Chemical Health Policy and is involved or will be involved in a production, on or off stage, or holds a leadership role, will be subject to the following consequences:

- Meet with school administration and be given due process and potential consequences stated in the Newton Public Schools Rights and Responsibility Handbook;
- Meet with the Director of Theatre Ink, parents/guardians, and Chair of Fine and Performing Arts Department to discuss the violation, necessary supports, and potential consequences;
- Meet with school prevention/intervention counselor;
- Student must meet weekly with the Director of Theatre Ink during their ineligibility;
- Consequences may include but not limited to suspension or removal from a production and/or leadership position and/or suspension from the program for a specified period of time based on the number of incidents of a CHP violation. (See Theatre Expectations at Theatreink.net);
- Participate in a re-entry process before being allowed to return to a production, leadership position, or overall involvement in the program.

1st Violation: (in addition to consequences listed)

- Suspension from all theatre activities for 1 to 4 weeks, depending on the extent of the violation and the cooperation of the student.
- If the student is involved in a production as a performer an understudy will be assigned to their role.
- Student may be required to attend rehearsals after 1 week of suspension and assist the understudy in preparing for a possible performance.
- If the suspension time affects the student's ability to perform, the understudy will assume the role permanently.
- In the event of a second violation the understudy will permanently assume the role.
- It will be at the discretion of the Director of Theatre Ink to allow the understudy to split the performances with the student who violated the Chemical Health Policy.

Note: If the student, on her/his own volition, becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in Theatre Ink activities in less time than stated in violation policy.

2nd Violation: (in addition to consequences listed)

- Suspension from all theatre activities for 3 to 6 months, depending on the extent of the violation and the cooperation of the student.
- If the student is involved in a production as a performer an understudy will immediately be assigned to assume their role.
- It is recommended that a student meet with the Director of Theatre Ink once a week during the period of their ineligibility.
- Participate in a re-entry process before being allowed to return to a production, leadership position, or overall involvement in the program.

Note: If the student, on her/his own volition, becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in Theatre Ink activities in less time than stated in violation policy.

3rd and subsequent violations: (in addition to consequences listed):

- Suspension from all theatre activities for 1 to 2 years, depending on the extent of the violation and the cooperation of the student.
- If the student is involved in a production as a performer an understudy will immediately be assigned to assume their role.
- Participate in a re-entry process before being allowed to return to a production, leadership position, or overall involvement in the program.
- Consequences shall be cumulative only during one academic year. A period of consequences will extend into the next academic year if the consequences are not met during the current school year.

Note: If the student, on her/his own volition, becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in less time than stated in violation policy. The student must go through a specific re-entry process to determine if they are ready to participate.

“In the presence of” violations:

If the Director of Theatre Ink, Fine and Performing Arts Department Head, or the Principal determines that a student involved in Theatre Ink is found to be in the presence of illegal substances listed in the Chemical Health Policy they will:

- Meet with the Director of Theatre Ink, parents/guardians, and the Chair of Fine and Performing Arts Department to discuss the incident, necessary supports, and potential consequences in regards to participation. Consequences may include, but not limited to, suspension or removal from a production, leadership position, and/or suspension from the program for a specified period of time.

Note: The student is strongly encouraged to be open, honest, and cooperative during an investigation, which may lead to alternative consequences.

III. Performance based clubs (acapella groups, Ligerbots, Mock Trial, Model UN, etc.)

A student in a performance based club that is participating in an on or off campus school sanctioned event who is in violation of the Chemical Health Policy will be subject to:

- Due process and potential consequences stated in the Newton Public Schools Rights and Responsibility handbook. If a student is suspended they will not be allowed to attend club meetings, tournaments, or any other club activity until they return to school;
- A meeting with the Club Advisor, parents/guardians, and Dean to discuss the violation and necessary supports;
- Meet with school prevention/intervention counselor;
- Consequences, which may include suspension or removal from the club and/or leadership position for a specified period of time; a re-entry process before being allowed to return to club activities.

“In the presence of” violations:

If the Principal, Dean, or other School Administrator determines that a student involved in a Performance Based Club is found to be in the presence of illegal substances listed in the Chemical Health Policy they will:

- Meet with the School Administrator, parents/guardians to discuss the incident, necessary supports, and potential consequences in regards to participation. Consequences may include, but not limited to, suspension or removal from the club, leadership position, and/or suspension from the club for a specified period of time.

Note: The student is strongly encouraged to be open, honest, and cooperative during an investigation, which may lead to alternative consequences.

IV. Non-Performance based clubs (Hiking Club, Book Club, Recycling Club, etc.)

A student involved with a non-performance based club who violates the Chemical Health Policy will be subject to:

- Due process and potential consequences stated in the Newton Public Schools Rights and Responsibility Handbook. If a student is suspended they will not be allowed to attend club meetings or any other club activity until they return to school;
- A meeting with the Club Advisor, parents/guardians, and Dean to discuss the violation and necessary supports;
- Meet with school prevention/intervention counselor;
- Consequences which may include suspension or removal from the club and/or leadership position for a specified period of time;
- A re-entry process before being allowed to return to club activities.

“In the presence of” violations:

If the Principal, Dean, or other School Administrator determines that a student involved in a Non-Performance Based Club is found to be in the presence of illegal substances listed in the Chemical Health Policy they will:

- Meet with the School Administrator, parents/guardians to discuss the incident, necessary supports, and potential consequences in regards to participation. Consequences may include, but not limited to, suspension or removal from the club, leadership position, and/or suspension from the club for a specified period of time.

Note: The student is strongly encouraged to be open, honest, and cooperative during an investigation, which may lead to alternative consequences.