

Jordan B

A New Perspective

I cannot exactly remember the first time I heard of the Drug Free Club. I would say it was about two days before our freshman class's first drug test. There were students, mostly upperclassmen, all around the school making jokes about if you were "positive" or not. I had no idea what they were talking about. I later found out that what they were referring to was peeing in a cup for this organization to test for traces of drugs. I did not think too much of it as I had never been exposed to or taken drugs before, unless you count insulin for Type One Diabetes. I have been tested over ten different times since my freshman year. Whenever I heard drug testing in the past all I thought about was the candy and snacks I would receive after being tested. Drug testing days made the school day more enjoyable with the goodies most everyone received. Enrollment in the Drug Free Club is mandatory at our school, so it was talked about regularly at our school. Everyone knew when there was a drug testing day.

My view of the Drug Free Club now is a little different than it was during my freshman, sophomore, and even the beginning of my junior year. It still provides awesome rewards for those students who are drug free and still makes the school day more energetic during testing days. Now, however, I see so many other things the club provides than just snacks and candy.

The thought came over me the first day of school this past year. I was walking down the hallways from class to class. I kept noticing new faces of the incoming freshman class. I remember seeing some of these faces sitting alone at assemblies or at lunch. They reminded me of myself during my freshman year. I remember coming into Covington Catholic not knowing anyone here. I did not come from a feeder school. I lived an hour away and did not play any sports coming in. It was difficult for me to make friends. During our first drug testing day, I remember seeing those same faces that I noticed alone interacting with fellow students after being tested. They all had Drug Free Club I.D.s and bags of snacks, sitting in the foyer, talking like best friends. When I saw this, I remembered how I had met my first friend at school. I was sitting in line for drug testing when someone from behind me asked if I knew what we were doing. I told him that I had no clue. After being tested, I remember sitting with this same student in the bleachers talking about the club and the amazing snacks we got. He is now my best friend I hang with almost every weekend, even though we live an hour apart. Being in the Drug Free Club gave us something to spark a conversation. It provided a common ground for me to stand on with those around me. It gave me confidence.

I now view the Drug Free Clubs of America as not just an organization for making sure young adolescents stay drug free, but a community for students to be a part of. While its surface goal is to reduce drug use in young adults, the club provides so much more than what meets the eye. Students are interacting socially because of the club. The club is so valuable in the age of technology where many are glued to their phones. Physical interactions between people increase their self-esteem and social skills. I know that the Drug Free Clubs of America have a positive impact on every organization it reaches too. Take a walk in a school that does not offer the club, and then walk into one that does, there is a difference.