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From the very beginning of my high school experience, I noticed the great influence the Drug Free Club has on the students and atmosphere of my school. I was lucky enough to attend a middle school that was considerably shielded and more or less in a bubble. I didn't have any early peer pressure to drink or do drugs, which I'm extremely thankful for. While talking to some of my peers before high school began, though, I learned of kids who had gotten into the wrong things and made bad decisions. I heard of kids being arrested and expelled for doing things I couldn't have imagined in 8th grade. So coming into freshman year of high school, I was extremely worried about the community I was joining and that drugs and drinking would be a norm. I worried that I would quickly find myself involved in the wrong crowd or the wrong place.

I didn't want to become involved with drugs or drinking in any way, and I grew increasingly concerned about the place I made my future school out to be. My imagination, however, could not have been farther from the truth. My worries were not unrealistic, but luckily I joined a school where the Drug Free Club had a great presence. When the school year began, clubs rushed to educate and invite new students to join their club. This is how I first learned of the club. My first premonition of the club was that it was a small thing that was mainly used as just another activity you could list on your high school resume. After coming to understand more about it, however, I learned further about the importance of Drug Free Club in the school. I was surprised to discover that, for the most part, the entirety of the school was involved in the club and even more surprised to learn how widely encouraged and celebrated it was.

Not only was my school hugely passionate about participation and involvement in the club but so were the members, as well as, the leaders of my school. The club caused an atmosphere of joy that was both inviting and sincere. The club was something communal that brought together grades and gave the school something to connect on. Not only was the club a relatable topic and a shared activity but the activities created communion, in addition. The erratic testing for the club provided the members an easy excuse to dodge peer pressure to make bad decisions. The club was also something that could get everyone excited.

On testing days, my school's ambience always seemed to visibly brighten due to the reward system my school has put in place. If you successfully completed a drug test you received a treat or reward and the test also created a small change in the day that broke the normal schedule and helped change things up. This, as well as, rewards just for being a member always put students in good spirits. I think that the influence that the club has clearly had on my school is tremendous. The club is such an innate piece of my school community that I could not imagine the place without it. I truly believe that Drug Free Club has caused the students at my school to lead a different path and that it has furthermore, set them on a course for success. I think that without the pressure to do drugs looming overhead, my peers have been able to focus further on their education, family, and friends.

In my mind, my school is like a second family, and I believe that it would not be as complete without the Drug Free Club playing such a big part within it. I am extremely thankful to the club and how it has changed my school for the better.