



St. Mary's School Fair Notice Letter: Washroom Use and Banned Substances

Dear St. Mary's Families,

At St. Mary's we value creating, fostering, and upholding a culture of wellness. We are committed to upholding high standards regarding substance use at school.

Our response to this concern has been and continues to be in alignment with:

- [The Alberta Education Act](#)
- [Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education Policy](#) relating to banned substances in the school setting.

This letter serves as a reminder to all our stakeholders that:

*As per [AP 354](#), if there are justifiable suspicions that a student possesses prohibited substances or related items, for instance, if there are reports from fellow students, the student's clothing, bags, and lockers may be subject to search.

*Students who are caught vaping or found to be in possession of banned substances or associated paraphernalia on campus will be suspended. These items will not be returned. When there is reasonable suspicion that vaping or other substance use took place, these same consequences will be applied.

*It is not uncommon for multiple students to occupy a washroom while vaping takes place. When this occurs, all students involved will be considered to have vaped. It is the student's responsibility to avoid placing themselves in situations of this nature.

*If we suspect students are under the influence of substances, parents will be called to pick them up.

*Students are not permitted to use school washroom facilities as a gathering space. Students are not permitted to be in washroom stalls together for any reason. Doing so may result in suspension.

Thank you in advance for discussing this notice with your student. Together, we can maintain a safe and healthy environment for all members of the St. Mary's community.