

10/27/09 Community Forum:
Underage Drinking: Myths and Realities
Mr. Clark's statement on challenges facing Miramonte Administration:

The following are consequences that are listed in the Student Agenda, Parent Directory, and Miramonte Website.

Student's Discipline Code

Alcohol - Under the influence, possessed, sold, used, furnished, offered, arranged, negotiated to sell

1st Referral – Parent contact, Five-day suspension, Expulsion, Police contact

2nd Referral – Parent contact, Five-day suspension, Alternative placement, Expulsion, Police contact

3rd Referral - Parent contact, Five-day suspension, Alternative placement, Expulsion, Police contact

All students will be accountable for these violations during school or any school sponsored event. Miramonte athletes have additional consequences for violating discipline policy.

Drug, Tobacco, and Alcohol Infractions

Athletes are prohibited from the sale, possession, or use of any form of tobacco, alcohol, or any illegal drugs or narcotics. Infraction of these rules will result in the loss of privilege to participate in athletic activities for the corresponding season. Sale or distribution will also result in a recommendation for expulsion from school.

All Athletes Agree to the Following

Athletes are prohibited from the sale, possession, or use of any form of tobacco, alcohol, or any Illegal drugs (steroids) or narcotics during their season of sport. Infraction of these rules will result in the loss of privilege to participate in athletic activities for 45 school days (BP, AR 6145.b). Sale will result in a recommendation for expulsion from school as well.

When students and student athletes are caught violating the rules pertaining to drugs and alcohol at school or school sponsored events, punishment is easily applied. The challenge is to enforce the administrative regulations concerning athletes while they are at weekend parties or non-school sponsored gatherings. We are exploring the possibilities of holding athletes responsible for alcohol violations year round not just while they are in their current season.

Enforcement of this policy cannot be applied when we receive secondhand information, anonymous letters, or phone calls. If students are cited by the police, information cannot be given to the school due to laws protecting minors. When a student is arrested for driving under the influence, possession of alcohol, or public intoxication, we would expect the parent to remove their student from all extra curricular activity to address his or her problem.

We need parents in our community to help in solving this problem. Call the police department if you are aware of a party taking place where alcohol is available to minors 925-284-5010. Do not allow your student to go to an unsupervised party. Please do not buy or furnish minors with alcohol.

Miramonte High School is beginning to work with all of our athletic captains to equip them with leadership skills. We want our athletic captains to be role models and contribute to the wonderful things happening at school. I am pledging my support behind the athletic coaches to bench and not play students that they believe are participating in illegal and harmful activities.

The spirit and tradition of Miramonte is great. We have wonderful students that are making positive contributions to the legacy of Miramonte. Our goal is to connect students with positive adults on campus. We want to engage our students in conversation and be supportive of their aspirations. Together we can begin to address the challenges facing our young people. Instead of focusing solely on punishing athletes that drink, let's talk about why some of our young people are drinking.