



“I’m fine with adding (gun) restrictions as long as they aren’t unreasonable. What’s going on now is, in my opinion, unreasonable.”

- Ethan Wagner (11)

80%

of students think there shouldn’t be more gun control laws

Time’s Up

Instead of counting down the days until school ends, get ready to count down the minutes. Next year, the state of Texas is transitioning from a 180 day school year to a 75,600 minute school year. Although the school year can’t end before May 15, this system will actually let students be finished with school earlier. This will also include intermissions and recess. The bill also allows schools to add minutes if days are lost because of weather or other calamities.

Just Ask Us

Governors in 31 states, including Texas, have said that Syrian refugees are not welcome in their state. However, the Obama administration has said that states that don’t comply may be subject to enforcement action. According to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), states can’t refuse refugees ORR-funded benefits because of religion or national origin.

In your opinion, do you think states should have the right to refuse Syrian refugees?

* 89 surveyed

90% SAID Yes



After the attacks in Paris, states are just trying to protect the people who live there.

-Reagan Adams, 9

10% SAID No



It undermines our Constitution. We can’t say that a certain group isn’t allowed in because of race or circumstance.”

-Tyler Stoeger, 9

What’s Edgy Now?



Amazon has released a new video highlighting their new prototype for drone delivery. It is one of 12 drones being developed in the “family” of delivery aircraft.

It was only earlier this year that Amazon was given permission to test drone delivery in the United States. The drone could deliver orders as quickly as 30 minutes after being ordered and can fly as high as 400 feet. Amazon has equipped their drones with “detect and avoid” technology to avoid obstacles in the air and ground, but said that it won’t release the drone delivery service until it operations are safe.

The FAA estimates that in 2020 there will be about 30,000 commercial drones in use not including the many more they expect to be used by civilians.

The Luck of the Draw



SAMANTHA KNOWLES
[reporter]

The voice over the intercom crackles. Sophomore Josh Nelson

listens in, expecting to hear his name. After being selected six times since the program was started when he was in middle school, Nelson just figures his name will be called yet again. While all he has to worry about is missing a lesson or two, he wonders how he’s been chosen so many times.

“I always thought they just chose names out of a hat,” Nelson said. “It seems weird that I have been drug tested more than anybody else in the school, but it doesn’t really bother me.”

Taking the Test

Once every six weeks, the drug testing company Southwest Consortium arrives unannounced from Saint Angelo, Texas, to test 40 of the 640 students that are in the testing pool. Students in the pool are involved in UIL activities or have a parking permit.

The drug testing program has been in effect for two-and-a-half years now, ever since Dr. Todd Williams was hired as the superintendent. That’s been more than enough time to figure out if the program has been beneficial, and if it’s been fair.

A computer randomly generates students’ identification numbers for each test, which are then sent to the drug testing coordinator, vice principal Kelly Kenny. Despite the drug testing program being attributed as Dr. William’s idea, he said he is almost completely in the dark about the specifics of the test.

“It’s confidential, and I don’t even know, because we set it up so that I was left out of the loop,” Dr. Williams said. “We have one person that administers the program, that keeps up with all that. I don’t know when they’re coming, and they don’t notify me when the next test will be.”

According to Mr. Williams, the lab communicates with Mr. Kenny, who keeps track of all the testing times, dates, and specifics, and is the only person at the school allowed to know the

details about the testing.

The testing company did not reply to questions about the selection process.

A Chance in a Million

With the testing selection being entirely computer generated, there is some question as to how a select few students have been chosen more than once. In some cases the same students have been chosen over five times. According to a statistical calculation, the probability of a student being picked out of the testing pool even one time is .15 percent.

The chances of being chosen multiple times just goes up from there. The probability of being tested three times is .0000005268 percent and when you add just one more selection the probability is .000000009166 percent.

However, administrators assure students that the testing is random.

“You’re just at the mercy of the computer,” Dr. Williams said. “If we changed our methods it might seem like we’re targeting somebody, but if you rely on the computer every time, it’s a mathematical possibility. I’ve heard of it before, and I’m not saying I’m comfortable with it because I’m not. But it can happen and it has happened.”

Just because it’s a mathematical possibility doesn’t mean the students find it fair. Many feel as though the students aren’t selected randomly, and some even believe the testing pool may be rigged.

“I don’t think it’s random at all,” sophomore Gracie Williams said. “They choose the people they know don’t do drugs and won’t be tested positive. The kids who actually do drugs never seem to get picked.”

Of course, not all students feel the selection is unfair. According to an Edge survey, 63 percent of students said that they believe the tests are computer generated, and there’s no reason to believe there is a bias.

At Your Own Risk

While there are students who have been tested

Random drug tests happen every six weeks. But students aren’t sure how well they work.

multiple times, the number of students who have never been tested is much higher so there is some question as to whether or not the program is actually a disincentive towards drug use.

“We haven’t seen the level of drug use that we thought we’d find,” Williams said. “That’s been very good, because we were worried that we’d find high levels of students using and abusing drugs and alcohol, and that has not been the case. I’m glad to report that.”

Some students, like sophomore David Mejia, believe that the program is a good way to control drug use, as long as the consequences are harsh enough to prevent students from using drugs.

“The bad kids will get in trouble with their parents,” Mejia said. “If the parents’ punishments are strict enough, the kids will never do it again.”

The question then is, how strict does the punishment have to be to be effective?

According to the student handbook, the first time someone is caught with drugs in their system, administrators notify parents and retested for the remainder of the school year.

The next punishments, offenses two through four, deal with suspension from extracurricular activities, revocation of parking privileges, and eventually, expulsion from both for the remainder of the year.

But according to Dr. Williams, very few students have been subject to the consequences.

“We’ve kind of confirmed that we don’t have as big of a drug problem as we thought,” Williams said. “I think the students here are responsible with that kind of stuff, and I’m proud of that.”

“The kids who actually do drugs never seem to get picked.”

-Gracie Williams (11)

The Hat Trick

65% of students have never been tested

42% of students believe the testing program is controlling drug use

6% of students have been tested more than twice

62% of students think at least one person tests positive each test

* 100 surveyed



“It kind of made me mad at first, but I guess it’s just a drawing thing. I’m just unlucky.”

-Allison Steed (10)



“I guess they just thought I was doing drugs. I don’t know why I was picked so many times.”

-Mason Cornish (11)



“I really just think my name was just drawn out of a hat. That’s what most people say anyway.”

-Joshua Nelson (10)

Although computers generate the names for drug testing instead of drawing names out of an actual hat, the concept still remains the same. (Art by SKnowles)

