



**Performance Learning Day – Lite
Task #4**

E-mail to Principals, Cherry Lane High School and Cherry Lane Middle School

Dear Principals:

As a representative of the Cherry Lane Rock 'Em, Sock 'Em Raiders Boosters Club and the proud parent of three Raiders who previously attended Cherry Lane Middle School, I am writing to you to express some concerns that came up at the last Boosters meeting. As you know, our group represents parents and community members who strongly support extra-curricular activities such as athletics teams, band, choral, music, theater, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and others at both the high school and the middle school. We're the reason the stands and auditorium are always full whenever Cherry Lane Raiders perform and why they have state-of-the-art equipment and uniforms.

To get right to the bottom line so to speak, we Boosters are concerned about the widespread influence of drugs and alcohol among the students at Cherry Lane High School and Middle School. From what we understand, the problem is starting at Cherry Lane Middle School, and as students matriculate to Cherry Lane High School, they are bringing these behaviors and drugs with them. Since the schools are located side-by-side on a shared campus, the chance for students to slip back and forth is all too tempting. And of course, Cherry Lane Elementary is now on the back side of the school property. Many of us hear from our children that there are a lot of students who use drugs and alcohol regularly at home and sometimes at school. Everyone knows about the terrible effects of drugs and alcohol on teenagers, and we know that the temptation to fit in leads to many kids feeling pressure to try drugs and alcohol.

As the principals of Cherry Lane High and Middle Schools, you have the responsibility to uphold the high standards that have made our athletics teams and other extracurricular programs the envy of the state. Cherry Lane Raiders are always at the top of the list. We believe drugs and alcohol threaten those standards, and that threat is beginning at your schools. We want you to act and act quickly to address this problem at Cherry Lane. The Rock 'Em, Sock 'Em Raiders Boosters stand ready to help in any way we can, and we have some suggestions about where you should start:

1. Other schools in the state have required drug testing for their athletes. We would like to see a random drug testing program put in place for all students who participate in any extracurricular activities whatsoever, including athletes. The Boosters would be willing to consider contributing to paying for the cost of drug testing at Cherry Lane Middle and High Schools.
2. Any student who fails a random drug test should be expelled immediately from Cherry Lane School District. This would eliminate those students who are at the root of the problem.
3. Sheriff James P. Barber, who is a life-long member of the Boosters, has stated that he would be willing to organize random checks of the Cherry Lane Middle and High School buildings and grounds by his squad of drug-sniffing dogs and their handlers. We believe you should take him up on his offer and work closely with him to use these checks as a deterrent to drug and alcohol use.

We hope you will let us know as soon as possible how you would like to get to work to put these ideas into place.

Sincerely,

Raymond Elsworth, President
Rock 'Em, Sock 'Em Raiders Boosters