

As Prom Season Approaches: Time for Memory- Making, Planning, and Discussion

By parents of Hall's Community of Concern Committee. Springtime and prom season is a special time for your teen, but anytime is a good time for healthy decision-making.

Our Hall teenagers will soon be arranging details of their junior and senior proms and with this comes the limousine rides, the dress and tuxedo details, and discussions of the "after prom parties." Here's some information to help parents guide their teens as they get ready for the prom and a good (and safe) time. Use these teaching moments to reinforce appropriate behaviors to help your teen prepare wisely for this special party and for future occasions.

◆ *Communicate*..... with your teen ... with hosts of parties... with the drivers and limousine services.....

◆ *Establish rules and expectations*..... for behavior..... for attendance at parties....for saying NO to alcohol and other dangerous substances....and to situations that could lead to disaster.



Getting Organized

Let's accentuate the positive. Our teens are in capable hands with our senior and junior prom directors Mr. Douglas M. Lee and Mrs. Robbin Antonucci respectively. The teachers each hold a student assembly where the prom's plans and expectations are discussed. These meetings have proven successful through the years as they lead the students to make good choices as they prepare for their special night.

"The students respect the prom because it's a formal occasion and they have put a lot of effort into making it a special night," says Mr. Lee. "We remind the kids that it's a big night and it's not the time to do something they might regret later," continued Lee. "It's fun to see them having such a good time at an event they take very seriously."

Ms. Antonucci added that the events facilities have complemented our kids on their fine behavior. Now, that is a reason to be PROUD of our students!



How do I get to the Prom?

Students travel to and from the prom in a number of ways. The safest way is for the parents to drive both ways. Other options include student drivers or to hire a limousine.

Make it clear: your teen may not under any circumstance be in a car where there is any substance or alcohol use.

If you arrange for a limo, we have some tips. Plan early as demand for limos out numbers the supply. Asking for the D.O.T. number assures you that the company is legitimate (has a license and insurance). If you hire an out-of-state limo, make sure your driver knows the laws in CT. Instruct the driver not to make any unauthorized stops, and to be diligent

about ensuring that our students are behaving properly. We have heard that passengers found with illegal substances could find their ride is over and their parents called.

🎵 What about after the Prom?

Indeed this is the time that raises the most concerns: the after-prom party and drive there!

The advice over the years remains:

An unsupervised after-prom party is never a good idea.

Help your child party safely. Below is a phone dialogue that you might use when calling the parents who are hosting a party. This dialogue is designed to be non-judgmental to put both individuals at ease.

Hi, may I speak with Mr. /Mrs. /Ms. _____?

Hi, I'm _____.

- My son _____ is a friend of your son _____.
- Do you know my son?
- The reason for my call is that my son has asked to go to a party at your home. Will you be there?


Will you be checking on the kids?

Would you mind if I stopped by during the party to introduce myself?

I'm always concerned that some kids will bring alcohol to the party - how about you?

Would you mind notifying me by phone if my son decides to leave the party? Could you call me if my son is inappropriate in any manner?

- Nice to talk to you. Here's my phone number and address.
- Please feel free to call me anytime. Bye.

 Provided by Officer Mark Bassos, West Hartford Police Dept.

Remind your student that a bad decision will affect more than just one, but a circle of people. **Underage drinking and substance abuse is a bad decision leading to more bad decisions.**

With your child: discuss curfew, party locations and instructions to call with any changes. Make sure she or he has transportation to and from the party with the understanding to call YOU if necessary. It is good to discuss situations when this may be necessary.

And for the brave parents who are hosting parties, please see the next page and remember-

😊 Congratulations.... You and your teen have done your work.....
It is going to be a great prom season!

Parental Guidelines:
Hosting a Post Prom
Or Post Graduation Party

- Set the ground rules with your own teenager before the party begins;
- A parent(s) should be home and visible during the party;
- Invite other parents to attend and help;
- Post a sign at the door, “No Drugs, No Alcohol, No Attitude”;
- Create a “guest list” and stick to it. No “party crashers”;
- If it is an “open party” (no guest list), ask each guest to sign in (print name and home phone and verify with student ID or license);
- Uninvited guests are asked to leave just once or call the police;
- Keep a school student phone directory available for parent reference;
- Greet every guest at the door. Talk to them. Get to know your child’s friends;
- Make eye contact with each guest. Use all of your senses;
- Check and hold all coat/jacket pockets, bags and backpacks;
- Ration food & beverage – it gives you the opportunity to check on guests;
- No loitering of guests in your yard or tailgating at vehicles in the street;
- Notify immediate neighbors of the party;
- Notify the parent(s) of any guest who attempts to bring in alcohol; do not allow them to leave with the alcohol;
- Never offer any type of alcoholic beverage to a person under the age of 21; this includes low-alcohol substitutes, beer, wine coolers, etc;
- Criminal Liability – Section 30-86 of the CGS prohibits the service (delivery, sale, providing) of alcohol to a minor. The fine shall be not more than one thousand five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than eighteen months or both.
- Town Ordinance Violation – it is a town ordinance violation for a minor to be in possession of alcohol while on private property
- Civil Liability – a homeowner may be held responsible in a civil proceeding for any personal injury or personal property damages incurred by their service of alcohol to a minor
- Notify the Police Department (Shift Supervisor) of the party location and hours, call 523-5203
- To report the sale, distribution or service of alcohol or tobacco to a minor call 9-1-1 for immediate police response or call the DARTBoard (anonymous & confidential phone line) at 523-2002 ext. 8844 to notify a Community Relations officer of a forthcoming incident.

Recommendations by the
West Hartford Police Department
Community Relations Division
523-2013

