

May 2008

Dear Senior Parents:

On Friday, May 23rd, 2008, your son will be attending the Senior Prom. We realize that the prom is something to which he has looked forward and for which he has made great plans. In order to insure that your son will have a memorable and enjoyable evening, it is important that both the parents and the school set up firm guidelines governing the conduct of the students before, during, and after the prom. Our traditional practice is to send a letter to the parents to advise them of possible problems arising on such an occasion and of the school policy in dealing with these problems. Because of the communication and the cooperation between the school administration and the parents, there were not any serious problems in the past. Parents took the advice of the school administration to heart and assumed their responsibility for planning the events before and after the prom.

One practice among some teenagers today that can ruin the evening (and often much more) is the use of drugs/alcohol. We will make every effort to assure that there is no use of drugs/alcohol by anyone at the prom itself. Members of the administration and faculty will be chaperons, and they will greet all persons as they enter and as they leave the prom. The security and personnel of the Woodcliff Lake Hilton will also be assisting us in this matter.

The practice of pre-prom parties at which alcoholic beverages are served to the teenagers is contrary to our best advice and could also lead to some legal difficulties for those parents who would be so indiscreet as to serve alcohol to minors. The message that the school administration and the parents should be giving is that a good time can be had without the use of drugs/alcohol.

It is advisable that you personally contact any limousine or bus company from which your son may be renting a limousine or party bus to inform the owners that you expect them to adhere very strictly to the requirements of the laws of the State of New Jersey, concerning the use of alcohol/drugs.

Obviously, any student who would come to the prom under the influence of or in the possession of drugs/alcohol would be in violation of our school regulations and would be in serious trouble. His parents would be called in to take him home, and he would also be prohibited from attending the graduation ceremony.

The administration and faculty of Bergen Catholic High School want your sons to have a good time and some fond memories of this prom. We ask you to cooperate with us in the best interest of your sons by planning carefully any arrangements that are being made for the evening, before and after the prom. Students will be allowed to leave at approximately midnight. Where they go at that time should be planned by you.

Yours truly,

Mr. Timothy J. McElhinney  
Principal