

SPRING ACTIVITIES

The month of May is upon us. There is no busier month of the school year for a student. This is especially true if your child happens to be a senior. There are banquets for this and that. There's the Prom and all of the excitement and planning associated with this event. However, the culminating activity of the year, of a senior's entire school career, is Graduation. When a child receives his or her diploma, it is a clear signal that one is ready to truly get started on a future career path as a young adult.

As seniors and their parents approach this exciting time in their lives and school careers, I would issue parents a word or two of caution. First, don't just assume that all is well at school. Check on your child's grades by logging on to Progress Book for your particular school. If you have trouble doing this, just call the school and check with the principal. No parent wants to be surprised a few days before graduation with the word that their son or daughter is not going to graduate due to some project not completed or something of this nature.

Secondly, I want to write a little about SAFETY. There is a great tendency for parents and students to let their guard down and to make poor choices during Prom and Graduation Season. These poor choices appear to us in the forms of substance use and abuse, which can and often does lead to other poor decisions and heartaches to bear. While it may be virtually impossible to be on top of all situations, as parents you need to know where your son or daughter is, who they are with, where they are, and if alcohol or drugs are involved. This is a time in a young adult's life when peer pressure to make

poor choices can be more powerful and persuasive than one's conscience to simply do the right thing. I hope that the lines of communication between you and your young adult children are such that they are always open, honest, and trusting.

Third, do not host a party at anytime for any reason that would involve underage drinking. I have mentioned this each year for the past few years. As a parent, you may be lulled into the false security that it is better to host a party where underage drinking is occurring than it is to simply not know where the young adults are or what they are doing. WRONG! Remember, those who host an activity of this nature stand to lose the most as a result of this action. As parents, you are responsible for all of the students attending a party on your property. Knowingly allowing underage drinking on your property is simply opening up a potential can of worms for all sorts of problems and heartaches. Just Say No!

In the event that you are not aware, here are the 2009 Prom dates for all of our high schools:

- North Adams – May 9th – Norlyn Manor, Batavia, Ohio – 8:00 p.m.-midnight – Grand March – 5:30 p.m. at NAHS
- Peebles – April 25th (already passed) – Norlyn Manor, Batavia, Ohio – 8:00 p.m.-midnight – Grand March – 3:00 p.m. at PHS
- West Union – May 9th – School Gymnasium – 8:00 p.m.-midnight – Grand March – 7:00 p.m. at WUHS

Graduation dates and times for all of our high school are as follows:

- North Adams – June 6th – 1:30 p.m. – School Gymnasium
- Peebles – June 7th – 2:00 p.m. – School Gymnasium
- West Union – June 5th – 7:00 p.m. – School Gymnasium

The last day of school for seniors will be June 2nd. The last day of school for all other students will be June 5th. We must all work together to strive to make this Prom and Graduation Season a safe and happy one for all students and their families. At least some of this information would be subject to change if we have an occurrence of swine flu in our schools.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS' APPRECIATION DAY

Monday, May 4, was School Bus Drivers' Appreciation Day across the State of Ohio. Even though this day has come and gone, I would like to offer the following observation. Everyday is, or could be, School Bus Drivers' Appreciation Day. Driving a school bus is a tough demanding job because so much is at stake, namely the safety of the students on the bus. It is a job that more often than not goes overlooked and underappreciated because we tend to take things for granted. Nonetheless, many parents depend on our District Transportation Program to carry their children to and from school each and every day of the school year. On behalf of the Members of the Board of Education and Transportation Supervisor Larry Bennington, I would like to thank our bus drivers for the

tremendous job that they do. Transporting 50-70 students safely on a bus to and from school everyday is a pretty awesome responsibility—even when all of the passengers are well behaved. It is one of those jobs that everybody can do, but few have wanted to try. We appreciate your work ethic and dependability, along with your job pride in undertaking this task for 178 days out of the year. Thank You!

If you have any questions or comments regarding this article, please contact me at 544-5586. Thank you.

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Superintendent