

Homecoming Survival Tips

WHO IS INCLUDED IN HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES? Although planned by the high school Student Council, Homecoming is a school-wide event for students in EE - Grade 12. Dress up days, daily schedules, and pep rally information is shared with all department leaders at DMCS. Each department decides the extent to which they want to be involved after weighing the potential impact to instructional time. Parents and community members are welcome to attend the parade and pep rally on Friday afternoon. A detailed schedule of events will be published as we get closer to the actual week.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FOR THIS WEEK? Homecoming is a busy week and instructional time continues as usual. It is very possible students will have tests, quizzes, or homework assigned during this week to manage along with all the daytime and evening activities. The best way to approach the week is proactively plan by viewing teacher's lesson plans and studying the weekend prior. Take advantage of the teacher inservice day on the Monday after Homecoming to catch up.

DANCE SPECIFIC (GRADES 9-12)

WHERE IS THE DANCE HELD? The dance is held at DMCS in the Gym and MPR. Doors close 30 minutes after the dance begins. If a student chooses to leave early, he/she may not re-enter the dance. The 9th grade class is assigned clean up duty after the dance. StuCo sponsors (Nikki Prewitt and Nathan Hiatt) will be coordinating volunteers in the weeks prior to the dance.

DO STUDENTS GO WITH DATES OR FRIENDS? HOW DO WE AVOID DRAMA?

Students in Grades 10-12 typically ask a date to the Homecoming dance. It is HIGHLY recommended the freshman NOT come as boy/girl dates but, instead, go as a large group of friends to dinner and the dance. Since this is the first school dance for the 9th grade class, they historically struggle with navigating how to make dinner & transportation arrangements in such a way so as to not hurt feelings and create 'drama'. Let me give you an example – A parent tries to help his/her child in planning details for dinner and transportation. They select a car that can fit 8 students. They tell their son/daughter they can take 8 and leave the student with the task of filling the vehicle. What you may not see is how this plays out at school when friends begin jockeying for "spots" in vehicles or dinner reservations. The next thing you know, we have students streaming through the office with hurt feelings that they were excluded from their normal friend group and asking the school to do something about it. The best thing you can do is coach your son/daughter to deal with the situation at home. It is an emotional situation that requires rational thinking. It is not rational to think a vehicle or restaurant can accommodate all 65 students in the freshman class so groups become necessary. Coach your child to enjoy the group they are eating/traveling with – Once the music starts, the groups don't matter. All students meet on the dance floor for a great night!

The PROM-POSAL or the concept of an elaborate 'ask' to a dance has become quite popular on social media. These create a situation where boys feel obligated to do something over-the-top and girls are either embarrassed by the public display or disappointed it didn't meet expectations. Please coach your son he doesn't have to do something extravagant or expensive to ask the girl. Coach your daughter to be content with the ask and appreciate any effort, money, and time invested by the young man. She may also need some additional coaching on how to say no to a boy she does not want to go with to the dance.

CAN STUDENTS BRING NON-DMCS DATES? Yes, students may bring an outside date. They must get an **Outside Date Form** from the JH/HS office, go over the dance and dress code policy with the date, sign it, and get the visiting student's principal to ensure the student is in good standing at the current school. Forms must be turned into the office on the Wednesday prior to the dance.

WHAT IS THE DRESS CODE FOR THE DANCE? The dress code is semi-formal. Boys usually wear a nice suit & tie; occasionally you'll see a tux. Girls usually wear a knee length dress; some are more formal than others. It seems the freshman typically select semi-formal attire since it's their first dance and seniors select more casual items they could wear at other events such as a wedding, graduation, etc. Unfortunately, popular fashions for Homecoming are too short, too sheer, too low, too ___ (fill-in-the-blank). As you prepare to shop for dresses, please keep the following in mind:

1. The dress must be high enough in the front and back to wear a strapless bra; it must cover cleavage and the midriff. If the dress dips down, cover any cleavage with a fabric panel (no sheer material).
2. Dresses must be mid-thigh or longer and should not be skintight. Keep in mind what happens when the girls have their hands up in the air (like they just don't care) or on the shoulders of the boy whom they are dancing

with during a slow song. Have them test it in the dressing room to see if the dress would still be mid-thigh or longer. No one needs one of those embarrassing high school stories of accidentally showing undergarments.