



PELHAM MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians of PMHS Juniors:

Plans are in the making for an exciting Junior Prom on Friday, April 27, 2018. Tickets for the Junior Prom will be sold at school, beginning Monday, March 26. The price is \$75 per person through March 29, and \$80 from April 9 to April 25. The dance is scheduled from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Only checks made out to "Student Association" will be accepted as payment. As a reminder, your son/daughter must be present for all his/her classes for at least half the school day on Friday, April 27 in order to be eligible to attend the prom.

Once students arrive at the prom, they will not be permitted to leave and return. No student will be allowed access to their personal or rental automobiles during the prom. In the event of an emergency, any student who must leave before 11 p.m. will be required to call his/her parent/guardian and will only be allowed to leave the premises accompanied by a parent/guardian.

As the prom and other end-of-year activities approach, we want to discuss the upcoming events and to ask your help to ensure that the festivities will not only be memorable, but safe. The school and the PACT Coalition are making every effort to prevent students from seeking to "enhance" their experience with alcohol or other drugs at pre-prom or post-prom gatherings.

As we approach this festive season, let us remember the law – drinking under the age of 21 is illegal. Our young people represent our future leaders. Their health and safety are of paramount importance to the school, to the PACT Coalition and to the Pelham community at large. Young people risk health-compromising, and potentially fatal, consequences when they drink alcohol. These risks increase when alcohol is mixed with prescription or over the counter medication and/or illicit drugs.

We would also like to remind you that under the New York Penal Law, any person who gives, sells or causes to be given or sold any alcoholic beverage to someone under the age of 21 faces potential prosecution. This provision can apply not only to a parent if hosting a party, but also to a teenager 16 and older.

Additionally and very importantly, we urge all parents to remind your children that in the case of a life threatening medical emergency involving an alcohol or drug overdose they should seek medical help immediately. The New York State "Good Samaritan Law" does offer immunity in most circumstances for people who seek emergency help for themselves or another. The Westchester District Attorney's Office has informed us that county and local police departments will be increasing enforcement efforts on streets near prom sites. Also, persons under 21 years of age may have their drivers' licenses suspended if they use their license as false proof to purchase alcoholic beverages.

In closing, let's join with other communities who are working hard to promote alcohol and drug free environments for our young people. Please review your teen's pre and post prom plans to ensure alcohol and drug free activities. Informational material that we believe might be useful to you in speaking with your teen is included in this mailing as well as on our website under Need to Know.


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