



Olathe South Senior High School

Olathe Unified School District #233

Commitment to Excellence

April 14, 2018

Dear OS Parents,

Once again, we count on you to help us encourage and remind our students to make good choices and to enjoy their High School Prom experience. Additionally, we celebrate the success of our Homecoming and Sweetheart dances and acknowledge that our kids can certainly experience the joy of the activity while meeting the expectations outlined for our high school dances. Just like you, we look forward to an experience where our kids will remain safe and be able to add another activity to the list of positive memories.

As plans certainly are already underway, we'd be remiss if we failed to offer an additional item to consider. We've offered this reminder for several years now and the feedback has always been overwhelmingly positive. Therefore, we do so again. Past experience has demonstrated that student participation on a "party bus" does provide a different twist to an evening's experience. It is neither our intent to pass judgment on any student nor parent who either participates or supports this exercise. Based upon past experience, we offer our encouragement to everyone to consider how such an activity will be carried out.

Certainly, there have been those students and adults who've responsibly handled the experience and thus have provided groups of ten to twenty students an opportunity to travel and be together between dinner and the dance. However, there have been situations where it takes only one individual to make a choice which places every member on the bus in the precarious position of "partying" on the "party bus" in ways which are both unsafe and illegal for those of high school age.

We all must recognize that the lone representative of the "party bus" company, who is present during the reception of the guests as well as the travel, has the primary responsibility of safely navigating through the streets while passengers entertain themselves in the back of the "party bus." Without question, these companies advertise the existence of a set of expectations for those of different ages, but on a number of occasions, our realities have revealed that enforcement of those expectations has been lacking. Our efforts to welcome our students and determine the well-being of all student participants at our dances is something we take very seriously. A "party bus" arrival does produce a different set of concerns and challenges.

Our sincere and heartfelt suggestion to the parents of those who do opt in to a "party bus" experience is as follows: Please consider and discuss among yourselves designs which include a very clear adult presence and expectations. Some have chosen wisely to have an adult presence which provides supervision at the site where participants initially board the bus. Likewise, it makes perfect sense to arrange a specific time when the "party bus" returns the participants back to their respective vehicles along with the understanding that there will be a parent welcoming committee there to greet them.

As stated earlier, our motivation and mission here is pure and simple. We sincerely want our children... our students... to have a safe, positive, and memorable experience where they recognize love and care for each of them.

Thank you.

Clint Albers
Olathe South Principal