



April 2017

Dear Parents and Members of the Class of 2017,

As we begin to anticipate the days to the end of the school year, we look forward with excitement to the extraordinary days of year-end Senior activities--the *PROM* and *COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES*--for the Class of 2017.

On the day of your son's graduation from Rockhurst, you rightfully share in his joy and celebration. Without your guidance, good counsel, support, and love, this important milestone in your son's life could never come to pass.

As with everything we do with and for your sons, the graduation events and the prom have been carefully planned and detailed. Kindly take the time to review the important information regarding Rockhurst's commencement exercises and Senior prom. I invite you to contact my office if you have any questions about this material. Please be sure you and your son read and sign the **Application for Graduation** and return it to the Dean's office no later than **Wednesday, April 12th**.

On behalf of the faculty and school administration, I thank you for the pleasure of serving you this past year. I pray that God will continue to shower you and your family with the richness of His grace and blessings.

Remember, good friends, you shall always have a home at Rockhurst High School.

May God bless you today and always,

Mr. Gregory Harkness, '81
Principal



Dear Parents:

The final quarter of your son's Senior year is upon us. Springtime brings end-of-year dances, graduation parties, and other activities where students congregate--on and off campus--to celebrate the end of high school. While these "heady" times are cause for joy and celebration, they can also be cause for deep concern.

As co-educators of your son, we believe it is imperative to take a strong and public position opposing the use of alcohol and other controlled substances by Rockhurst students. It is the policy of our school that any student in possession of, or under the influence of, drugs and/or alcohol at school or school-sponsored events, e.g., the Senior prom, place at serious risk their participation in the graduation ceremonies and, in fact, risk expulsion prior to graduation. Also, Senior students who are under the influence of controlled substances, including alcohol, at any school-sponsored event place at risk their privilege of receiving a Rockhurst diploma and participating in the graduation ceremonies on Sunday, May 21, 2017.

We are also concerned, too, that many teenagers are sexually active before they are able to make a serious commitment to marriage and the raising of a family. Students sometimes use school functions, e.g., dances and proms, as an excuse to host unsupervised parties, and/or to become sexually active in homes, motels, and hotels. The faculty and school administration are opposed to the rental of hotel rooms, whether by parents or students, for after-prom parties, and/or the use of homes in unchaperoned fashion. It is our experience that such practices often lead to significant problems. We ask that you communicate these policies, and your own expectations, firmly and clearly to your son and his prom date. We appreciate your efforts to supervise your teenage son during non-school hours, and we encourage you to continue doing so by:

- Being informed about his activities, whereabouts, and companions;
- Bringing to the attention of school and other authorities the names of those parents who allow unsupervised parties in their homes and/or serve alcohol to young people;
- Not participating in the rental of a motel room, bus, or limousine before or after prom;
- Preventing a young person from either driving while under the influence or riding with a driver who is impaired.

We share this with you because we know you love your sons and so do we.

Sincerely,

Mr. Matt Darby
Dean of Students

Mr. Gregory Harkness
Principal

Mr. Chris Bosco
Assistant Principal of Student Life



Application for Graduation

I hereby petition to participate in the commencement exercises for the Class of 2017. By signing this application for graduation, I agree to abide by the following stipulations:

- I will attend any and all graduation practices.
- I will attend, with my parents, the graduation ceremony and the Baccalaureate liturgy.
- I will dress appropriately for the commencement exercises, i.e., black tuxedo (including coat) with black tie and cummerbund; a clean, pressed white shirt; and black shoes with black socks. (Additional adornments of any kind, outside approved RHS KAIROS crosses and simple boutonnieres, are not allowed).
- I will abide by the grooming standards for the commencement exercises, i.e., hair and sideburns properly trimmed in accordance with stated school policy, i.e., hair shall be neat, clean, and well groomed. It may not cover the eyes, or more than half the ears (even when combed from above and behind the ears, and must be at least one inch off the collar. "Tails" are forbidden as is any hair length that allows the hair to be gathered into a "tail" or ponytail.
- The face is to be clean-shaven.
- I will return all school materials before the last graduation practice.
- I will have completed all required work grant hours no later than **Friday, May 12, 2017**, (or will have made arrangements with Mrs. Smith).
- I understand that misconduct during graduation practices or during any part of the graduation exercises (Baccalaureate Mass and/or graduation ceremony) places at risk my receiving a Rockhurst diploma and my participation in the commencement exercises.
- I understand that Rockhurst High School does not condone or tolerate any "Senior pranks." I further understand that offenders of this school policy place at risk their participation in the Senior prom and graduation exercises, and are liable for severe disciplinary action up to, and including, expulsion from school.
- I have read and will abide by the Senior prom regulations as specified in the letter to my parents, especially including that I am not to arrive at pre-prom or prom under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. Doing so places at serious risk my participation in graduation ceremonies and, in fact, risks expulsion prior to graduation.

I, _____, wish to participate in the graduation exercises, and we agree to the above-mentioned stipulations.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ *

****Before this application for graduation is approved, all financial obligations must be met by parents and/or student. For additional information, please contact the Business Office.***

Approved: _____
Mr. Matt Darby, Dean of Students



Senior End-of-Year Timeline

March 28	Graduation announcements delivered during lunch in Barry Commons
April 10	Spirit Contest Award Day – NO classes for Seniors, this year's winners
April 11-19	Prom ticket sales
April 19	Application for Graduation form deadline, due to the Dean's Office Additional prom ticket sales (for additional cost)
April 25	CPO – Matriculation Survey (giving during Activity Period)
April 26	Awards Assembly – 10:10 am in the Gymnasium <i>This is an all-school event; therefore, there will not be room in the Gymnasium to seat parents and relatives. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.</i>
April 28	Senior Appreciation Day – NO classes for Seniors <u>Pre-Prom</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-prom photo session (parents are invited) at 6:30 pm in the Rose Theater• Formal prom photos are available for order <u>Senior Prom Dinner and Dance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:00 pm - 12:00 am, with late arrival 8:30 pm• 11:30 pm -- Early dismissal with prior permission• Doubletree Hotel at Corporate Woods, 10100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS
May 1	National candidate's reply date for college admissions decisions (verify with your school of choice directly) All library books and magazines due in the school library
May 12	Financial obligations deadline: Business Office, Mrs. Kelly Williams Work Grant obligation deadline: Mrs. Renée Smith 11:00 am - Graduation practice, Performance Gym 11:45 am - Senior Luncheon, Performance Gym
May 1-12	Advanced Placement Examinations
May 15-17	Senior Examinations
	May 19 Student's Rockhurst AMDG email account is disabled
May 21	Mass and Commencement Exercises 9:30 am Line-up for Mass and Graduation 10:00 am Mass and Graduation -- Main Arena, Municipal Auditorium 301 West 13th Street Kansas City, MO 64105
Mid-June	Final transcript mailed by the CPO to college/university the student plans to attend PROVIDED all financial obligations to Rockhurst are met
June 30	Graduation / Senior DVD Order deadline; Ms. Ann Lehane



Dear Parents:

On Friday, April 28, 2017, the Class of 2017 will hold their Senior prom. Prom events begin with the pre-prom in the Rose Theatre at 6:30 pm and continue with prom at the Doubletree Hotel at Corporate Woods at 8:00 pm.

Prom is a formal dinner/dance, and appropriate attire for our students is a tuxedo; for their dates, a formal dress. Dinner service will begin at 8:30 pm, dancing will begin approximately an hour and fifteen minutes after the first meals are served. Prom ends at midnight. Students will be allowed to leave the prom no earlier than 11:30 pm.

Pre-Prom

Prom events begin at 6:30 pm with the pre-prom. Introductions of the couples will be made and the opportunity for formal portraits will be available. Parents and relatives of the Seniors and their dates are welcome to attend and to use the opportunity to take candid photos. Invitations for this event will be sent to all Senior parents. Prices for prom pictures will vary with the package chosen.

Prom

The Rockhurst High School prom will be held at the Doubletree Hotel at Corporate Woods, 10100 College Boulevard in Overland Park, Kansas. Check in and seating for dinner will begin at 8:00 pm and all students must be at the Doubletree Hotel no later than 8:30 pm.

A meal selected by class officers and representatives of the Senior Class will be served and dancing will begin after all have had a chance to finish their meal.

No one will be permitted to leave the prom prior to 11:30 pm. An exceptional reason, which requires leaving early from prom, must be brought to the attention of Mr. Bosco and approved by Mr. Darby, Dean of Students, in advance. If any illness occurs during the dance which would require an early leave, Rockhurst must contact both sets of parents for permission for dismissal in addition to our permission.

Chaperones

Any parent who wishes to help chaperone during the prom events is encouraged to contact the Senior class representatives of the Rockhurst Parents' Club.

Expectations for Student Behavior

It must be clearly understood by parents and by Rockhurst High School Seniors and their prom guests that all published expectations for appropriate behavior remain in effect during pre-prom and prom events. Any student who demonstrates behavior consistent with being under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances will be denied entrance to all activities. The student's parents will be contacted to escort the student home. Students who arrive at the pre-prom and/or at prom under the influence of controlled substances place at risk their participation in graduation ceremonies and, in fact, risk expulsion prior to graduation. All school discipline policies will be enforced.

We ask the cooperation of all parents in establishing appropriate limits for our students on this evening. Supporting the school's desire to provide fun and safe events for our students requires parents to create clear and unambiguous expectations of their sons and their dates. Rockhurst does not support the rental of hotel or motel rooms for post-prom parties. We discourage strongly the rental of buses or limousines.

While prom is an important event in the lives of our Seniors, it is not the last night our students and their friends will be able to socialize. Prom is a dinner/dance, not a farewell. Let us strive to support the desire for a fun evening without supporting inappropriate or potentially dangerous activities.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rick Staihr
Senior Class Moderator

Mr. Chris Bosco
Assistant Principal of Student Life



SENIOR PROM

- **PROM TICKETS** go on sale Tuesday, April 11. Tickets may be purchased Tuesday – Wednesday - Thursday (4-11 to 4-13) for \$120; and on Tuesday - Wednesday (4-18 & 4-19) for \$145. Tickets will be sold before school & activity period in room 309 and after school in the SGA office. See Señor Staihr for tickets. The last day to purchase a prom ticket is Wednesday, April 19 - 3:15
- **TABLE REQUEST FORMS** may be picked up in the SGA office or in room 309. This form, 1 per table (5 couples), is due by Wednesday, April 19 @ 3:15 PM, and must be given directly to Señor Staihr. Seniors without a table reservation will be assigned at random. Any vegan or vegetarian needs should be discussed with Mr. Staihr.
- **SENIOR APPRECIATION DAY** (skip day) is Friday, April 28.
- **PRE-PROM** is scheduled for Friday, April 28, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Rose Theatre. Seniors and their dates are asked to enter the Rose Theatre via the double door entrance under the Rose Theatre’s main entrance staircase. Couples will be formally introduced on the stage. All are invited to the Rose Theatre to take pictures as you and your date are introduced.
- **SENIOR PROM DINNER & DANCE** begins at 8:00 PM and ends at 12:00 AM at the Doubletree Hotel at Corporate Woods, Overland Park, KS. ALL Seniors and their dates should be at the Doubletree Hotel no later than 8:30 PM. NO ONE will be permitted to leave the prom prior to 11:30 PM. Any reason for late arrival or early departure from Prom must be approved by Mr. Bosco and Mr. Darby prior to the dinner/dance.
- Seniors are responsible for their date’s behavior for the entire evening. Seniors are reminded of their *Graduation Contract* expectations and the guidelines listed in the *Parent/Student Handbook 2016–2017* for dances. Rockhurst reserves the right to administer random drug/alcohol testing prior, during or after the event at Rockhurst’s discretion.
- Questions should be directed to Señor Staihr.