

## **Parent Tips for Prom/After-Prom**

Talk with your teen about their plans for the evening and have them make a commitment to staying safe by making good decisions.

If possible, provide transportation to and from Prom and After-Prom.

If your school is including dinner in the price of the Prom ticket, encourage your teen to take advantage of that and save money by not having to go to a restaurant.

Prom will be supervised by school staff, police officers, and in some cases private security guards.

Don't host an After-Prom party. Encourage your teen to attend their school's After-Prom party. When your school rallies together as a community and collaborates on ONE event on ONE special night for your kids, there is no greater sense of school spirit and school pride.

After-Prom, sponsored by the PTSA, will be supervised by parents, police officers and additional security.

If your teen is going to any After-Prom party not sponsored by the PTSA, contact the adult host(s) to make sure that activities and levels of supervision are acceptable.

If you get word of a party where alcohol will be present, immediately let the police know where and when the party is supposed to take place. Howard County Police have an alcohol unit that investigates such parties, so call 410 -313-2284 if you hear of a party where alcohol will be served.

The Police Department, as part of its safe driving effort, is assigning additional police officers to patrol the areas around Prom and After-Prom parties for the sole purpose of keeping our kids safe. They will strictly enforce all speed, DWI, seat belt and other violations that they observe.

And remember:

Drivers under the age of 21 cannot have **any** alcohol in their systems. Therefore, one drink at home, on the way to a school sponsored event, at a school sponsored event, or at an outside party may result in severe disciplinary and legal penalties, including loss of driving privileges. There are also school consequences for alcohol citations at Prom or After-Prom. This could include suspension from school and suspension from extracurricular activities, including various senior events.

It is illegal for parents (or any adult) to serve alcohol to persons under the age of 21, even in home settings. The "social host" laws impose fines for adults who furnish alcohol to minors or allow the consumption of alcohol by minors on their premises.

Let's work together to keep our kids safe!

**HC DrugFree is proud to partner with the Howard County Public School System, PTA Council of Howard County, Howard County Police Department, and Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services to keep our youth safe throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org) or call 443-325-0040.**