

# Oxbow Junior/Senior Prom - Keep Your Children Safe!

Saturday, May 19th, 2018

Each spring, the juniors at Oxbow put on an elegant evening of dinner and dancing for the benefit of the senior class. The Prom committee spent most of the year picking a theme, deciding on a function hall, choosing the food, picking a D.J., decorating, and otherwise planning what is to likely be the most formal affair many of them have attended so far in their young lives.

This year's Prom will be held at the Dowd's Inn from 6 p.m. - 11 p.m. Students are required to be at the prom by 7:00 p.m. and can leave no earlier than 9:30. If a student arrives late or wishes to leave early, a chaperone will contact a parent.

We would like to take a moment before the Prom to say a few words about Prom safety. The prom can be a wonderful introduction to adult socializing or it can be ruined by unsafe driving, underage drinking and drug parties. We meet with prom participants prior to the Prom as a group to review prom rules and expectations for behavior. All school rules apply for prom, and of course drinking, drugs, and tobacco in any form, are forbidden. Chaperones will be strategically positioned throughout (alas, prom chaperoning is sometimes more work than fun) so as to deter drug or alcohol use and to make sure your child is safe. We also have other safety procedures that we ask all students to follow. Parents/guardians will be contacted if a student does not check in by 7 p.m. Students that are driving themselves to the prom can be escorted back to their car by a chaperone if necessary.

Here are some things that you can do as parents to reduce the possibility of your child's involvement with drugs or alcohol on Prom night, or any night they're out, for that matter:

- 1) Talk openly with your child about drugs and drinking. Acknowledge to them that you know that many teenagers drink and take drugs. I would hope that you establish with them that you do not approve of such behaviors, and establish a climate in your home that makes it safe for your child to talk about the dilemmas and choices they face.
- 2) Know that the prom begins at 6:00, and ends at 11:00. Know what your kid's plans are before the prom and after the prom, and that they are accountable during those times. Make sure their plans before and after the Prom meet with your approval, and have appropriate supervision. Unsupervised "post Prom" parties are accidents waiting to happen. Students who leave the Prom early are not allowed back into the Prom. If a student is on the guest list and does not show up, we will call home to let you know. If they leave excessively early (before 9:30) we will also call home to let you know.

3) Be up and awake when your student returns from the Prom (or any night out, for that matter) and make sure they know you'll be up and awake, and able to check the possibility of being "under the influence." This act alone can possibly prevent your child from taking risks with drugs and alcohol! Some parents make it a practice to kiss their children goodnight upon return from evening social functions so that there's a good-natured "breath check." If you're going to use this one, no need to be coy - tell them in advance you're going to do it!

4) Talk openly with your child about the safety and legal risks of driving under the influence. Discuss what choices are available if his or her ride is with someone under the influence. We suggest that you are home and available to your kids, if necessary, when they're out socializing at night, so you're able to respond if they call you. Make sure your kids know that if they're faced with the dilemma of riding with someone under the influence, they can and should call you for a ride.

5) Discuss with them that if they're under the influence themselves, their own judgment is impaired, and their ability to choose not to get into a car with an impaired driver goes down, dramatically, placing them at greater risk.

Prom should be about having fun and being safe. If we all do our parts, we can increase that likelihood. If you have any questions about Prom or Prom safety, please call us at 222-5214.

Sincerely,

Laura Gardner  
Co-Junior Class Advisor

Bernadette Smith  
Co-Junior Class Advisor

Jean Wheeler  
Principal