



Morris Hills High School



520 West Main Street • Rockaway, NJ 07866-3799
Todd M. Toriello, Ed. D. • Principal • 973-664-2301

Dear Morris Hills High School Seniors and Parents/Guardians:

I hope this correspondence finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. The purpose of this letter is to outline and explain Morris Hills High School's plan for the Senior Prom. I apologize for the delay of this correspondence, as traditionally it is sent home to all seniors and parents/guardians in early April. With the current pandemic, however, I needed to wait for more guidance from Governor Murphy's Office about what we could and could not do with regard to holding a prom.

Prom season is one of the highlights of our school's social calendar; it is an exciting and special time, especially for our seniors who have lost so much over the past fourteen months. Please know that the Senior Class advisors and officers, as well as the administration, have been working tirelessly to plan and implement a safe and memorable prom experience for all. The expectations and guidelines listed below have been put in place with our students' safety being paramount.

Toward that end, I am happy to announce that the Senior Prom for the Class of 2021 will be held on June 4, 2021 at the Parsippany Hilton. The venue holds two large areas for our seniors - one inside and one outside. The inside venue is the grand ballroom which can house close to 950 people. The outside venue is one of the parking lots which will be transformed into a large open space with a tent over it, including tables, chairs, and entertainment. The two venues allow us to be in compliance with all guidelines of Governor Murphy's Executive Order with regard to room capacity for indoor and outdoor events. The following information includes important details and expectations for the prom.

THE DAY OF THE PROM

- Students attending the prom must attend all classes whether in-person or virtual on the day of the prom, June 4, 2021. June 4th is a scheduled "A - Day." Failure to attend all classes will result in students not being permitted to attend the prom.
- There will be no early dismissal for any students. All students must be in class until 12:25PM.
- Seniors attending the prom must complete a daily health self-assessment prior to coming to the prom. The student daily self-assessment and screener can be found on the school's website and should be performed at home; it does not need to be turned in to the school.

PROM NIGHT

- Friday, June 4, 2021
- 6:30PM to 10:00PM
- Parsippany Hilton - 1 Hilton Ct, Parsippany-Troy Hills, NJ 07054
- No outside guests or 9th, 10th, or 11th grade Morris Hills High School students are permitted. This is a SENIORS ONLY event to help ensure the safety of everyone and keep in compliance with Governor Murphy's Executive Order with regard to room capacity for indoor and outdoor events.
- Masks must be worn at all times except when eating dinner.
- Tables will seat 6 students, socially distanced. A sit-down dinner will be served.
- Dancing will be allowed as per Governor Murphy's Executive Order. Additionally, the requirement for wearing a facemask and keeping a social distance from others on the dance floor must be maintained and will be enforced.

- Prom night is a school activity and under no circumstances will the consumption of alcohol or drugs be tolerated. If, in the opinion of the chaperones, a student is impaired in any way, the Morris Hills Regional District's Drug and Alcohol Policy will be enforced. This means parental notification, immediate referral to an emergency room physician, drug and alcohol testing, drug and alcohol assessment, and suspension from school. In addition, seniors will be excluded from year-end activities including the graduation ceremony.
- Smoking/Vaping is prohibited at the prom. Students in possession of a vape will be required to go to Urgent Care for a medical screening.

Students attending the prom must attend all classes whether in-person or virtual on the first day of school following the prom. Students who attend the prom and are not in attendance either in-person or virtual on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 will be considered truant from school.

Prom bids will be on sale for \$55 on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, May 11, 2021 - 12:45PM to 3:00PM - Gym Foyer
- Wednesday, May 12, 2021 - 12:45PM to 3:00PM - Gym Foyer
- Thursday, May 13, 2021 - 12:45PM to 3:00PM - Gym Foyer

In the coming weeks, I will continue to communicate with the seniors and parents/guardians with any prom updates and end-of-the-year activities. Additionally, I will be sending home shortly my commencement letter outlining Morris Hills High School's graduation plan. At this time, we plan on holding our commencement exercise on June 18, 2021 on Gifford Field in compliance with all guidelines set forth in Governor Murphy's Executive Orders.

Upcoming Activities for the Class of 2021

- Viewing of Mr. Morris Hills - May 14th @ 7:30PM on Gifford Field
- Top 20 Academic Recognition Ceremony - May 17th @ 6:30PM in the Morris Knolls Auditorium
- Senior Athletic Awards Ceremony - June 9th @ 6:00PM in the Auditorium
- Senior Awards Ceremony - June 14th @ 4PM on Gifford Field
- Graduation Practice # 1 - June 16th @ 9:30AM on Gifford Field
- March Madness Movie Winner - Viewing of The Breakfast Club - June 16th @ 7:30PM on the practice football field
- Graduation Practice # 2 - June 17th @ 9:30AM on Gifford Field
- Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2021 - June 18th - specific time to be announced on Gifford Field

I hope the above information lends clarity to some of the many questions asked by both seniors and parents/guardians as the 2020 - 2021 school year winds down. My wish is for all stakeholders to complete the year on a positive note, greeting the warm weather with strength of purpose and renewal. It has been a long, unforgettable year, one which beckons us all to cross the finish line with vitality and sustained focus. Our jobs are not yet done, and our need for partnership remains constant.

To the parents/guardians, your continued support is appreciated on these above issues. Thank you, as always, for articulating such expectations at home.

To the Seniors, as your Principal, I am beyond proud of your efforts this academic year. You have risen to every challenge as true Scarlet Knights. You have shown your true colors as students. You have shown everyone that you all bleed the red and the white. And over the past nine months, you have shown everyone why **WE ARE MORRIS HILLS STRONG!**

In the Spirit of Partnership,



Todd M. Toriello, Ed.D.
Principal