



# Morris Hills High School



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As hard as it is to believe, we are entering the final two months of the school year. As we look forward to warmer days, we need to remain mindful of the standards and expectations established by the Morris Hills Regional District, not the least of which concern themselves with consistent student attendance and punctuality. The Morris Hills Regional District has always placed a high value on both, and for that reason, I wish to review the guidelines governing district standards relative to school attendance. These guidelines are not new to us; but sometimes it is prudent to review in the interest of both student and parental clarity, especially with the onset of spring activities. Staying informed is our shared responsibility, so I hope you find this information to be helpful.

## **Unauthorized Absences**

The Morris Hills Regional District has always addressed the issue of cut days, which usually occur in the spring of the year. Our school district does not condone this kind of absenteeism for any student, any group of students, or for any particular grade level, including seniors. Cut days will be considered as trancies and will be dealt with in accordance with our Morris Hills Regional District's Attendance Policy, resulting in suspension from school.

## **Prom Activities**

Junior Prom  
May 10, 2024

Senior Prom  
May 31, 2024

The prom season is one of the highlights of our school's social calendar; it is an exciting and special time, especially for juniors and seniors. Nonetheless, regular daily attendance must be maintained in order to qualify for participation in these events. To clarify our building procedures for students attending proms in the Morris Hills Regional District, we will follow these guidelines:

1. Students attending our school-sponsored proms must be in attendance at school on the date of the prom from 8:05AM to until at least 12:42PM.
2. Please note that all seniors, regardless of whether they are attending the prom or not, will receive an early dismissal provided they are not on a contract due to an attendance appeal.
3. Morris Hills High School will honor requests for early dismissal for the Junior Prom only upon completion of the appropriate Google Form. Additionally, Morris Hills High School will honor requests for early dismissal for the Senior Prom (for non-seniors) only upon completion of the appropriate Google Form.
4. Please note that student absences from courses resulting from an early dismissal because of the Junior Prom will be counted as unexcused classroom absences.

5. Please note that student absences (freshmen, sophomores, and juniors) from courses resulting from an early dismissal because of the Senior Prom will be counted as unexcused absences. Senior absences are considered excused.

The Google Form for the Junior Prom will be posted on the Junior Class Google Classroom. The Google Form for the Senior Prom will be posted on the MH website under the Attendance tab.

**JUNIOR PROM** – The completed Google Form must be received by the Attendance Office no later than Friday, April 26th.

**SENIOR PROM** – Any underclassman attending the Senior Prom must complete a Google Form and the Attendance Office must receive the Google Form no later than Friday, May 17th.

Our class advisors will provide us with a list of all students attending the proms. Students not attending the Junior Prom are expected to be in school all day.

PLEASE NOTE: Any absences from classes after the 12:42PM early dismissal time will be in violation of the standards set for Perfect Attendance.

4. Students attending our school-sponsored proms are expected to be present in school on the first school day immediately following our prom dates. Students who attend a prom and are not in attendance by 8:05AM on the first day of school following a prom date will be considered truant from school. These dates are Monday, May 13th for the Junior Prom and Monday, June 3rd for the Senior Prom.
5. Students and parents should be aware that 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 and the graduation ceremony.
6. 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.

I hope the above information lends clarity to some of the many questions asked by both students and parents as the school year winds down. My equal hope 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 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.

As parents, your continued support is appreciated on these above issues. Thank you for being there to help us define the importance of school attendance and punctuality; and thank you, as always, for articulating such expectations at home.

In the Spirit of Partnership,



Todd M. Toriello, Ed.D.  
Principal