

April 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Prom season is upon us! Prom 2017 will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at Todaro's Party Center. This is a wonderful and memorable time for our juniors and seniors and one that we hope will be both cherished and safe. To that end, we will be following some policies and procedures.

In an effort to promote a healthy, safe, and enjoyable atmosphere for all students attending Prom 2017, we will be requiring our students and their guests to take an alcohol breath test (*commonly referred to as a breathalyzer test*) upon entry to this dance. This is our normal procedure for all formal and semi-formal dances sponsored by St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, both on and off campus. We also reserve the right to test students during and/or upon leaving these dances upon reasonable suspicion. Suspicion will be based upon (but not limited to) the following observed behavior: unsteady gait, slurred speech, impaired motor control, flushed face, odor of alcohol or other substance on breath, clothing or person, and/or vomiting.

Tests will be administered by trained school personnel on qualified alcohol breath testing devices. If a student tests positive, his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted and required to pick up their student. We remind you that for seniors a violation of this kind at prom could result in the loss of participation in the Baccalaureate Mass, and/or Graduation ceremonies in addition to the penalties outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook. For juniors and all other students, the Student-Parent Handbook states that consequences range from a five-day out-of-school suspension to expulsion, depending upon the circumstances involved as well as a conference with parents/guardians and administration. If the STVM student is not expelled, there will be an immediate dismissal from all extra-curricular activities for a period of up to one year. This applies to athletic teams, school clubs and organizations, drama productions, school-sponsored trips and social events, and all leadership positions.

We also reserve the right to conduct bag/purse searches as well as searches of any cars, limousines, and party buses that may have been used to transport students to the dance. Details of this type of search and the associated consequences can be found in the STVM School Dance Alcohol Breath Testing Policy attached.

The safety of our students is a responsibility that we at STVM take very seriously. Again, these actions are an effort to come into accord with the procedures of other area Catholic high schools, and to promote a healthy, safe, and enjoyable atmosphere for all students involved. We encourage you to talk with your student about these issues prior to the dance and we appreciate your assistance in prohibiting the use of alcohol or other drugs by students prior to, during, or following any school event.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue, we encourage you to call and we will address your concerns directly.

Wishing all of us a very joyous and safe Prom 2017 season!

Robert Brownfield  
Principal

Tom Carone  
President

Anthony Glaser  
Dean of Students

Caitlin Bradley  
Dance Coordinator

Chris Salvatore  
Campus Minister

## **STVM School Dance Alcohol Breath Testing Policy**

St. Vincent-St. Mary High School retains the right to determine if a student is under the influence of alcohol or other substances through observation or the use of a breath alcohol test (*commonly referred to as a breathalyzer test*).

### **GUIDELINES FOR STVM SEMI-FORMAL AND FORMAL DANCES:**

- A. All students and guests will be subject to a breath alcohol test administered by trained school personnel on qualified alcohol breath testing devices.
  1. Students testing negative will be allowed to enter the dance.
  2. Students testing positive for alcohol use will be denied entry to the dance without refund. The student's Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be called and will be required to pick up their child. Further disciplinary action will be taken as delineated in the Student-Parent Handbook.
  3. A student's refusal to take the test will be considered a positive test result and he/she will be denied entry to the dance without refund. Further disciplinary action will be taken as delineated in the Student-Parent Handbook.
  
- B. Students suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs upon or after entering the dance will be subject to an alcohol breath test or other evaluation as deemed necessary by STVM school personnel.
  1. Students testing negative will be allowed to enter the dance.
  2. Students testing positive for alcohol use will be denied entry to the dance without refund. The student's Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be called and will be required to pick up their child. Further disciplinary action will be taken as delineated in the Student-parent Handbook.
  3. A student's refusal to take the test will be considered a positive test result and he/she will be denied entry to the dance without refund. Further disciplinary action will be taken as delineated in the Student-Parent Handbook.
  4. Suspicion will be based upon the following observed behavior, but is not limited to: unsteady gait, slurred speech, impaired motor control, flushed face, odor of alcohol or other substance on breath, clothing or person, and/or vomiting.
  
- C. St. Vincent-St. Mary High School reserves the right to conduct purse/bag searches as well as searches of any limousines or party buses that may have been used to transport students to the dance.
  1. If contraband substances are found during a bag/purse search, the student will be denied entry to the dance without refund and their parents/guardians will be contacted and required to pick up their child. Further disciplinary action will be taken as stated in the Student-Parent Handbook.
  2. If such substances are found upon the search of a car, limousine, or party bus, ALL students arriving in said vehicle will be denied entrance without refund whether they knew of the illegal substance(s) or not, the limousine or party bus will be asked to return to its original point of departure and student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted and required to come and pick up their child. Further disciplinary action will be taken as stated in the Student-Parent Handbook.