



March 21, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The members of the **Class of 2019** are now entering the final stages of their time as students at Downers Grove South High School. We are looking forward to sharing several specially-planned traditions with both you and your graduate as this class closes another proud chapter in South High's history. Please find attached a newsletter highlighting key activities on the senior calendar, with clarification of the traditions and expectations for senior activities throughout the next two months.

The pending graduation and the other senior year milestones generate festivities that extend into the community. As parents, we need to be mindful about the form that some of these festivities take, especially when they include possible drug use and the consumption of alcoholic beverages by underage youth. A related consideration facing parents is the criminal and civil parental liability for underage drinking. Several provisions of current Illinois State Law apply to the aiding and abetting of such offenses by an adult, and we have listed them below for your convenience:

- ❖ The consumption of liquor by any person less than 21 years of age is forbidden.
- ❖ No person, after purchasing or otherwise obtaining liquor, shall sell, give or deliver such liquor to another person under the age of 21 years except in the performance of a religious ceremony or service.
- ❖ Any person who rents a hotel or motel room from the proprietor or agent thereof for the purpose of, or with the knowledge, that such room shall be used for the consumption of liquor by persons under the age of 21 years shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- ❖ Any person at least 21 years of age who pays for a hotel or motel room or facility knowing that the room or facility is to be used by any person under 21 years of age for the unlawful consumption of liquors and such consumption causes the intoxication of the person under 21 years of age, shall be liable to any person who is injured in person or property by the intoxicated person under 21 years of age.
- ❖ The parent or legal guardian of an unemancipated minor who resides with such parent or legal guardian, is liable for actual damages for the willful or malicious acts of such minor which cause injury to a person or property.

If parents plan to HOST a party, or if your teen plans to ATTEND, we recommend that parents communicate with each other to confirm adequate supervision, adherence to curfew and legal guidelines, and assurance that an adult will be present to supervise throughout the event. If you become aware of a party at which alcohol will be served, we encourage you to contact the appropriate authorities. The motivation is not to "catch," but to keep kids safe.

Each year at this time, stories begin to circulate about Senior Ditch Day. Downers Grove South does **NOT** sanction or condone any such day. If a student chooses not to attend school, he/she and the parents should be willing to accept the consequences of this decision. The consequences may be severe; depending on the number of times the student has already missed school. Students with unexcused absences may not be allowed to make up work for credit. We strongly discourage parents from giving false reasons for a child's absence.

We want to thank all parents and students for making the past four years an enjoyable, productive and rewarding experience for all of our staff at South High School. There is an **Exit With Pride** celebration following the graduation rehearsal on **Thursday, May 23, from 4:00 – 6:30 PM**. It is a time when staff and students can relax, eat, and have a good time together before our formal **Graduation Ceremony on Friday, May 24**. Each year we anticipate the Graduation Ceremony with mixed feelings of sadness at seeing our graduates leaving South and optimism and excitement for where their futures will take them. Congratulations to each of you!

Respectfully,

Edward Schwartz
Principal

Jennifer Martinez
Student Activities Director

Amy Simler
Senior Class Advisor

Alessandra Trosclair
Senior Class Advisor