

# the stentorian

north carolina school of science and mathematics

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# PROM

## The "Do's" and "Don't's"

alison chu



Mackenzie Brads, Clarice Spica, and Willy Tuffs play with a museum exhibit while at the 1999 Prom.

The North Carolina School of Science and Math offers, every year, a prom experience unlike any other. No matter how hard we try to make our prom a facsimile of the proms of other "normal" high schools around the country, we always end up being eccentric and standing out a little from the rest.

First of all, instead of holding prom at a fancy hotel or transforming the school gym into a scene out of a Cinderella, S&M opts to uphold their academic tradition - we manage to even make prom educational by holding it at the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science. Students end up playing with the many displays and taking pictures with the stuffed animals.

Instead of renting limos or borrowing their parents' Lexus's, some students end up riding the loop to the restaurants that we normally frequent at South Square, Ninth/Broad Streets, Erwin Square, or Brightleaf. Even if students have their cars, it's still different from other high school proms because for us, it's a rare privilege. Whereas other high schools students ride in each others' cars all the time, for S&M students, it is often the first time that they have seen each others' rides, much less ridden with them.

Along with all these peculiar circumstances come rules that do not apply to "normal" high school students. Following these few, simple rules will ensure a less-than-ordinary, yet SLI-less prom:

## Making Prom Memorable

shayerah ilias

The perfect dress or tuxedo, the perfect date, the perfect night... In movies and magazine ads, prom is illustrated as a mystical, magical event. Sometimes, prom does turn out to be a Cinderella-style evening, but more often than not, life takes over and petty disasters strike. NCSSM students who have attended previous proms have learned numerous lessons from their experiences. And now, as year 2000's prom approaches, the following prom advice should provide insight to NCSSM students.

Kevin Cromwell was in charge of the Prom Committee for eight years. During those eight years, he has witnessed many changes happen to the entire prom experience.

"From ticket prices to the where the prom takes place, NCSSM prom has changed significantly since 1992 - the year I first headed the Prom Committee," said Cromwell.

One part of the prom experience that still remains constant is the objective to make prom a memorable experience.

"Prom is about enjoying yourself," said Senior Sara Hanner.

Students generally begin prom-planning by finding that special date or group of friends they want to attend prom with. Since the task of deciding whom to attend prom with has the potential to be stressful, there are some important tips to keep in mind.

"Don't feel obligated to go with a particular person. It is important to go with someone that you will have fun with," said Senior Brandy Shaw.

"Do not have such high expectations for your date that he or she cannot fulfill them. You end up feeling disappointed. Likewise, do not go with somebody who has impossibly high expectations for you. You will go crazy trying to make him or her happy," said Senior Clarice Spica.

Although prom is often considered an event for couples, it is perfectly all right to go with a group of friends. Many students at NCSSM take that route and enjoy themselves thoroughly.

"I went to the prom with a friend last year and had a wonderful time," said Senior Heidi Landry.

"If you choose to attend prom with a group of people, make sure that the size of the group is small enough that you feel comfortable. If your prom group is too

1. Each student planning on staying overnight at a location besides school must obtain and complete the required Prom Overnight form before March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students with overnight permission must leave campus before In-Dorm Curfew. Parents are responsible for students' actions when overnight permission is granted.

2. Loops will be running to and from prom, and also to restaurants before and after prom. However, this is the one school function at which students are allowed to have cars on campus. But, students must strictly adhere to the following regulations.

a) The schedule for the day of prom:

10:00 AM Students with cars may pick up keys from Bryan SLI office

6:00 PM Bus loops to local restaurants begin

9:00 PM Bus loops to Prom site begin

9PM-1AM Prom

1:30 AM Car keys due to Bryan SLI office (if staying on campus overnight. If staying elsewhere, car keys are due upon arrival)

2:00 AM In-Dorm curfew

b) All students living outside of 2-hour driving radius of NCSSM may bring vehicles to campus between 9AM and 10:30PM on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Cars must leave campus by April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 PM

c) Students within the two-hour radius may bring cars on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. These cars must leave on March 26<sup>th</sup> by 10:30 PM

d) Immediately upon arrival, students must turn in the Vehicle Permission Form signed by parents and keys to Bryan SLI office. The following information must be provided for periodically administered car checks: the make, model, color, and license plate number of car.

Besides these rules, it's up to each student to make their prom experience unique and memorable. These are some prom plans that S&M students have found to maximize their prom enjoyment:

1. Many students stay overnight at the Doubletree Hotel or other nearby establishments. Often, rooms are rented as a group of couples or friends. Other students opt to stay at the homes of friends nearby.

2. Since some students have the opportunity to drive somewhere, they go to restaurants outside of Durham. Raleigh and Chapel Hill offer a variety of cuisines that are sure to please all in your prom party.

3. Or instead of going to an expensive restaurant, opt for a more wallet-friendly picnic. Go to McDonalds in your dresses and tuxedos and order Happy Meals.

4. Go to Wafflehouse after prom and fill up your growling tummy and rest your tired dancing shoes while you scarf down blueberry pancakes.

5. Even though pictures are taken at prom (the professionals and your own 2 or 3 24-rolls), many students take their own pictures beforehand. Some of the best prom pictures were taken at school, at Duke Gardens, or at the fountain in Erwin Square.