

SHS PROJECT GRADUATION 2019



January 7, 2019

Dear Class of 2019 Parents,

Though it feels like winter is here to stay, June graduation will be here before we know it. The SHS Project Graduation Committee (you might also know us as Safe Party or Safe Grad) is in full swing in the planning of this year's graduation night event. The core mission of this organization is to provide a safe, substance-free event for graduates by creating a memory-making last night together as a class.

Historically, the cost of this event can run upwards of \$20,000 and has taken the form of a harbor cruise around Boston or NYC. The cost per student is mostly subsidized by fund-raising and community donation and a portion of available funds are rolled forward for the next class. The more money we are able to raise, the less out-of-pocket cost per student. For instance, the 2017 Grad Night event cost was close to \$20,000 for 70 students minus \$16,500 subsidized = \$50 out-of-pocket per student vs. \$285.

With expenses on the rise, each year is proving to be increasingly difficult to raise enough funds to subsidize this event. As such, we decided to change last year and this year's venue to Sonny's Place in Somers, CT (www.sonnysplace.com) to reduce the expenses by almost 50%. In addition to food, soft drinks, snacks and a non-alcoholic margarita bar, activities provided will include go-karts, mini-golf, zip-line, batting cages, arcade, mini-bowling, rock climbing, monkey motion jumper and laser tag. Aside from being a more affordable alternative, holding the event closer to home addresses previous feedback we received regarding long bus trips to Boston or NYC. Additionally, by decreasing the travel time to the venue by at least two hours, this creates additional time for graduates to spend with friends and family at the parties you may be throwing to celebrate this momentous occasion.

To keep this annual tradition going into 2019, there is a 50 student minimum required sign-up and payment of \$40/student to be submitted no later than **Thursday, January 31, 2019**. See registration form attached. Once that minimum is attained, registration fees will become non-refundable. This allows us to not only project attendance and continue with planning, but also ensures we do not put our \$1,750 deposit at risk. **If this minimum is not reached by January 31st, the event will be cancelled and additional fund-raising efforts towards this year's graduating class will be terminated.** We are currently working with a Saturday, June 15th graduation date which is subject to change with final announcement made by the Board of Education in early April. This poses an additional challenge each year and we will continue working around it to the best of our ability.

Should you have any questions or concerns or would like to help out by volunteering or donating money for raffle items, please contact us at our **new email address** SUFFIELDPROJECTGRAD@gmail.com or we welcome you to join our next meeting at the SHS Common, on Monday January 21st at 6:30pm. Parent and student engagement is urgently needed.

Thank you for your support,

SHS Project Graduation Committee

Class of 2019 Graduation Night- Sonny's Place

Somers, CT

June 15, 2019

Name: _____

Address: _____ Student Phone: _____

Preferred Email: _____

Parent contact for night of event (Name and Phone number): _____

Costs: \$40.00/student

Please make checks payable to SHS Safe Party.

Form must be returned to the main office with \$40.00 by January 31, 2019.