

## What Should I Know About Homecoming?

Homecoming is a dance held on a Saturday in the fall at Whitman, preceded by:

### -*Spirit Week*

- Students decorate halls by grades within a theme on Monday
- The students wear certain things each day (ex: pj's, 80s day)
- Battle of the Classes is one evening, 7-9pm\*
- Homecoming Football Game which is Friday evening

The Student Government Association (SGA) decorates the WHS Gym for the dance with the help of parents. Past themes have been Night on the Nile, Bonjour Paris, Night Under the Stars.

Tickets are sold to the event.

Homecoming is usually 8:30-11:00 p.m. It is chaperoned by parents and staff. Once a student leaves the dance, they are not allowed to return. Sometimes food is served, sometimes not.

People usually go in groups and all grades are eligible to attend. WHS students are allowed to bring someone from a different school. Within a group, 1-2 kids often take responsibility for planning dinner and transportation and assessing the cost for the other group members. Planning ahead will ensure obtaining transportation or a restaurant reservation for these large groups. Sometimes groups have dinner in someone's home instead of in a restaurant. Plenty of people drive to Homecoming rather than hiring a limousine.

Attire: Suits or coats & ties for boys; "cocktail" style dresses for girls. Flowers and boutonnieres are often worn.

There are no school-sponsored activities after Homecoming. Some teens attend private parties. However, parents are encouraged to determine whether there will be responsible and attentive adults chaperoning the "after-parties" so as to ensure sober, legal festivities. Additionally, parents are urged to engage in conversations with their teens about activities and temptations. Sometimes we assume our kids know about the risks or there's denial that *our child* could be involved in an illegal activity. Numerous research studies have shown that parents directly impact a youth's decisions about alcohol and influence these decisions in a variety of ways. For more information on how parents can influence their teens' decisions about illegal drug and alcohol use, see the Drugs and Alcohol Tip Sheet.

### \*Battle of the Classes:

This event consists of 4 grade-level teams competing in athletic events and "festival activities" (donut-eating, tug of war, etc.). SGA Class Officers oversee the event; try-outs are 2 weeks prior and then teams practice during those two weeks. Points are accrued by activity and then tallied to determine the winner.