



# BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOYERTOWN AREA SENIOR HIGH

**Safety & Well-Being Acceptance & Respect Communication & Collaboration Learning & Growth**  
*To cultivate an exceptional, innovative learning community that enables all students to succeed in a changing world.*

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Dear BASD Learning Community,

It is with a heavy heart that we are announcing the cancellation of the 2020 Prom, which was tentatively rescheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>. We continue to base our decisions on the guidelines set forth by federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the district's core values of "Safety & Well-Being" for our students, staff, and community members.

Based on our agreements and contracts with the various vendors, we had until late July to make the decision to cancel Prom while still being allowed to keep our monies and refund the students. While it is true that we have two more weeks before this deadline, we have been receiving many requests for a decision from our students and parents before they continue to make plans and spend money on dress purchases and alterations, hair appointments, tuxedo rentals, suit purchases, and other plans. Additionally, each day brings back tightening restrictions regarding social regulations and safety protocols.

The following steps and considerations were taken that led us to this decision:

- We currently have well over 250 people signed up to attend the 2020 Prom. The guidelines under the green phase to "re-open" the State of PA will not allow events exceeding 250 people.
- We discussed the possibility of splitting the Prom into two evenings. Sunnybrook was graciously willing to accommodate us. This would allow us to be under the 250-person restriction for each night; however, the fellowship and celebration that is the spirit of Prom would be ruined. In addition, there would not be an equitable or logistical way to divide up the students and account for work schedules and/or availability.
- A Prom, by nature, is a dance, and the act of dancing is in direct contradiction to social distancing guidelines.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Education guidelines, based on the order from Secretary of Health, Dr. Levine, require all people to wear masks unless they are six feet apart from each other. We considered changing the Prom to a formal dinner affair, but after reviewing the square footage and various table arrangements, we found no possible solution to comply with this directive. Students would not be allowed to eat without masks, unless six feet apart from one another. Even with using multiple rooms at Sunnybrook, we would not be able to fit all of our students comfortably for dinner, and again, groups and friends would be separated from one another.



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- The Promenade would require students to either wear their masks when promenading or maintain six feet apart from their dates/friends. We believe that this would not be something that could be monitored and maintained, nor did we want to subject the students to these expectations.
- We are aware of no other schools that were able to hold a Prom this year. The remaining schools that were still attempting to hold a Prom have also decided to cancel or postpone. We are not considering a postponement.

Based on the reasons above, we cannot justify offering the Post Prom event either. We want to thank the parents who worked tirelessly to plan for Post Prom. They will be sending an email to the seniors who had signed up for the event. Please make sure that you read the email for additional information from Post Prom committee.

By canceling at this time, we are making sure you are eligible for a full refund instead of waiting until the week before when money will no longer be refunded. The process to push out the refunds has started, and we expect that refunds would be completed by August 14, 2020.

We are saddened to continue to be in this position and for the missed opportunity for our graduating seniors. We hope that our community will understand the reasons for this decision and we all work together to do our parts to fight this pandemic, support one another, and do what is best in the interest of “Safety & Well-Being” for all.

BASH Administration team