

'Don't disgrace the uniform'

“Don't disgrace the uniform” ...it's a quote shared with me by the father of three young men, all of whom graduated from St. Frederick and are now either in college or graduated, some working and married, all successful, Christian, wonderful young men. It's what he shared with them as they were growing up. Make the family proud, make your school proud, by the way you represent them.

I thought of them this morning as I reflected upon last night's Junior-Senior Prom.

It's a long-standing joke among the faculty that I am not the greatest fan of high school dances. It's certainly not because I don't like to dance or dislike music, for I like both. I think maybe it's the tension between the kids letting loose and having some fun and the risk of a few engaging in behavior that's unhealthy for them.

Though I wish we didn't have to test all students at our dances for alcohol use, I truly believe that it is beneficial in the end. Our parents want to know that their children both arrive and depart safely. We ourselves want the same thing for them, because we care about their health and safety.

In four years, we've not had a serious issue at any of our dances. Quite the opposite.

Last night, the saxophone player in the band (and by the way, they were great!), stopped the music during one of the sets to make an announcement: He said that in their years of playing for high school proms, our group was the best-behaved group they'd ever performed for.

A few minutes later, some of the moms who stopped by told me that the owner of Waterfront Grill, who had fed over forty of our students at their pre-prom dinner, called her to compliment her on our students' behavior at the restaurant. He was so proud of them, and especially proud that his granddaughter is a SFHS seventh-grader.

And when I was leaving the Cork Room, both the Chateau employees and the Monroe City police officer who provided security remarked that our students were polite, well-mannered, and well-dressed. The officer also said that he thought that school spirit was a thing of the past—until he watched our students at the prom.

I felt such a sense of pride last night, in our students and our school.

Please don't misunderstand—I know that the largest part of the credit for the impression they left with so many last night goes to our parents and families, who have raised these fine young men and women.

But it also seems that this discipline, this school pride, this deeply rooted desire not to “disgrace the uniform,” also has its roots in the faith formation and education they are receiving at St. Frederick.

Thank you so much for sharing your children with us. May God continue to bless our school community.

Jennifer Malone,  
Principal  
323-9636 x104  
jmalone@stfrederickhigh.org