

# SHS PROJECT GRADUATION 2018



January 10, 2018

Dear Class of 2018 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 donations and a portion of available funds are rolled forward for the next class. The more money we're able to raise, the less out-of-pocket cost per student. For instance, the 2017 Grad Night event cost close to \$20,000 for 70 students - \$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've decided to change this year's venue to Sonny's Place in Somers, CT ([www.sonnysplace.com](http://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, zipline, 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've received regarding long bus trips to Boston or NYC. Additionally, by decreasing the travel time to the venue by at least 2 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 2018, there is a 50-student minimum requiring sign-up and payment of \$40/student to be submitted **no later than WEDNESDAY, JAN 31<sup>st</sup>**. 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 Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, the event will be cancelled and additional fund-raising efforts towards this year's graduating class will be terminated. We're currently working with a Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> 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'll continue working around it to the best of our ability.

Should you have any questions, 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](mailto:SUFFIELDPROJECTGRAD@gmail.com) or we welcome you to join our next meeting at SHS Commons, Weds Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM. Parent and student engagement is urgently needed.

Thank you for your support,  
SHS Project Graduation Committee

**Class of 2018 Graduation Night – Sonny's Place  
Somers, CT  
June 16, 2018**



Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Student Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent contact for night of event: (name & phone) \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost: \$40.00/student. Please make checks payable to SHS Safe Party.**

**Form must be returned to the SHS main office by January 31, 2018.**

