

My name is J.C. Ditzler. My son Nicholas will graduate from Sammamish High next June, along with your sons and daughters. I'm writing on behalf of the parent-run Sammamish High School Class of '08 Graduation Party Committee.

Why Am I Writing to You?

Most of you are familiar with what the formalized high school graduation party looks like these days. Some of you may even have attended one. For those who aren't as familiar, here is the short version of the pitch:

High school graduation is a very, very big moment in our kids' young lives. We want them to fully enjoy their time, but we of course want them to be safe while they do. Enter the well-planned grad party. It works like this: Immediately following the graduation ceremony next June, participating students are transported from the ceremony venue to a fully chaperoned, **super-fun, all-night** party at a secret location somewhere in the greater Seattle area. A real effort is made to be sure that so many different activities are crammed into the event that every kid -- regardless of his or her interests -- will have several really fun things to do. Two full meals are served during the night, and snacks and soft drinks are out and available the entire time as well. Bottom line is that the kids have an absolute blast in an entirely safe environment, and are returned home safe, well-fed, tired and happy the following morning.

Why Am I writing to You Now?

First, a party like this requires lots and lots and lots of set-up. We're hoping that you will contribute your time and ideas to the process, starting now. Second, the cost of a party like this is significant. Some of that cost (perhaps as much as a third) is offset by student/parent group fundraising throughout the coming year (more on that later). Even so, individual student tickets are likely to be around \$100 each. This is meant in large part to be fair warning. I'm told that in past years parents appreciated knowing that cost was out there as far in advance as possible. That way they have the option of, for example, suggesting that relatives perhaps consider "chipping in" on the ticket as their student's grad gift, or maybe even asking their student to earn \$10-15 a month toward it over the course of other school year! Third, we really, really hope to have 100% participation in the party. The kids' experience will only be enhanced by having everyone in the class in attendance. I hope you will help us reach that 100% participation goal by encouraging your Sammamish circle of friends to participate in the planning process, and otherwise trying to help us to get every student excited about attending.

We will send periodic updates on the planning process, requests for help, meeting notices, etc., likely by email. At the moment, however, our email address list is a bit lacking. Please take a moment and look at the address block above. If you want your work address added, or if you see that you have an address of a '08 parent that is not on the list, please provide it to me (maybe from a sports team?).

The process of planning and getting things lined up is fun. Please consider lending a hand. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to send any questions, comments or suggestions along.

Thanks,

J.C. Ditzler

Sammamish High School Class of 2008 Grad Party Committee Chairman
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