

Dear Free State Families,

As we near the end of the school year, I want to share some information with students and families to help ensure that our seniors make plans to celebrate safely. Free State wants all of its seniors to stay safe and participate fully in events held to recognize their accomplishments as Firebirds.

Here are some reminders from our Student Handbook and Lawrence Board of Education Policy related to unsanctioned senior activities. Some examples reported in the past, include head shaving, face painting, pranks, vandalism, and participation in a game called Assassins.

Per District Policy JGECA, hazing is any act that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or as a condition or precondition of attaining membership in, or affiliation with, any district-sponsored activity or grade-level attainment. This includes, but is not limited to:

- forced consumption of any drink, alcoholic beverage, drug or controlled substance,
- forced exposure to the elements,
- forced prolonged exclusion from social contact,
- forced sleep deprivation,
- assignment of pranks or other activities intended to degrade or humiliate.
- forced participation that draws attention to an event, e.g. head shaving, face painting or clothing.

Students found to have participated in hazing will be consequent according to the policies in the Student Handbook. Given the timing of this week, students may also lose the privilege of attending Prom or graduation. The school administration understands that some students may say they willingly participated in these activities. One cannot willingly participate in hazing. Consequences will stand despite perceived “willingness.”

Senior Week pranks, such as toilet papering houses and other forms of vandalism, are not school-sanctioned or school-sponsored activities. If these activities occur on campus, they may result in suspension and police involvement. If these activities occur off campus, we encourage homeowners to contact police.

We are aware that seniors have been known to play a game called “Assassins” during spring semester. This game involves players using water guns to eliminate each other in order to become the last surviving player. We encourage parents and students to discuss the safety risks associated with this game. Please note:

- This game is NOT a school-sponsored activity and may NOT be played at school or at school events.
- Water guns are NOT allowed on school grounds or at school events at any time.
- Police take seriously all reports from the public about “armed subjects.”
- Students should, at all times, respect the property rights of others.
- Students should consider the dangers of using a water gun that may resemble a firearm.
- We do not want students to put themselves in an unsafe situation because their actions or intentions while playing a game (i.e. jumping out from a hiding place to “shoot” someone) were misunderstood by others.

There is nothing more important to Free State than the safety of our students. Thank you for your continued partnership and for assisting our staff in educating students about personal safety. We join you in celebrating this milestone of our Firebird seniors’ school careers.

Good time to review respect, responsibility and excellence!

Thank you

Myron D. Graber  
Principal Lawrence Free State High School  
Respect, Responsibility & Excellence

"In the end it is important to remember that we cannot become what we need to be by remaining who we are." --  
*Max De Pree*