

TYRONE AREA MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

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To: Students in Grades 11 and 12, Parents/Guardians, Faculty, and Staff

From: Gunter Volders, TASD School Board Student Activities Committee Chair

Subject: The 2026 *Bell-'Rone Interdistrict Spring Formal*: Event Consolidation and Expectations

Due to ongoing budgetary pressures, rising event-related costs, and declining enrollment across the region, the Tyrone Area School District, in cooperation with the Bellwood-Antis School District, will move forward with a consolidated prom model, beginning with the 2026 school year.

This shared event, formally titled the ***Bell-'Rone Interdistrict Spring Formal***, is intended to preserve the traditional prom experience while promoting fiscal responsibility, operational efficiency, and constructive positive engagement between neighboring student populations.

District officials recognize that this change represents a departure from long-standing local practice. However, after careful consideration, we have determined that a unified event offers the most sustainable path forward while maintaining continued access to a formal spring dance for our students.

To support a safe, respectful, and emotionally balanced atmosphere, the districts have jointly developed a series of expectations for student conduct, formalwear, and event participation.

Event Identity

To ensure a neutral and welcoming tone, the event will be publicly referred to as the *Bell-'Rone Interdistrict Spring Formal*. References to the event as a “joint prom,” “shared prom,” or “merged prom” are discouraged and will not appear in any official publications.

The event will alternate between venues. This year’s event will be held at the Altoona Heritage Discovery Center (Tyrone’s venue), and next year it will be at the Casino in Lakemont (Bellwood’s venue).

Formal Attire Expectations

Students are expected to arrive in attire appropriate for a formal school-sponsored event.

In the interest of preserving interdistrict harmony, students should avoid clothing or accessories that could be interpreted as emphasizing the schools’ athletic rivalry or superiority of either school in any way.

Therefore, students from both school districts will NOT be permitted to wear formalwear in black/orange or blue/yellow combinations at the event.

Wearing these color combinations at the event will be grounds for immediate dismissal and disciplinary action.

However, students wearing **all four** colors on the **same** dress or suit will be considered a sign of inter-district unity and will be permitted.

Arrival and Seating Procedures

To streamline event entry and reduce congestion, students will be admitted through staggered arrival windows. This year, Tyrone students will arrive between 6 and 6:30, while Bellwood students will be admitted from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Seating assignments will be organized in a manner that supports a smooth social transition and minimizes unnecessary early-evening tension.

Interactions between students from both schools are allowed and encouraged, but must occur within the designated “neutral zones.”

Students are reminded that:

- Tyrone students and guests will occupy one side of the event space, and Bellwood students will occupy the other.
- Coordinated chanting and symbolic group walk-ins or walk-outs are not permitted.
- Applause is encouraged; booing is not.
- Students should remain within their assigned school zone unless visiting one of the approved neutral zones.

Music Requests

Music selections will reflect a balanced interdistrict playlist model. Songs will be alternated between requests from Bellwood and requests from Tyrone students.

General Student Conduct

The purpose of this event is to celebrate students in a way that is both festive and respectful.

Students will be expected to interact with peers from both districts in a manner that reflects maturity, courtesy, and shared ownership of the evening.

The districts remain confident that, with flexibility and cooperation, students will help make this year’s Tyrone-Bellwood Interdistrict Spring Formal a memorable and constructive experience for all involved.

Additional guidance regarding ticket sales, guest forms, photography procedures, and floral color ratios will be shared in the coming days.

Thank you in advance for your patience, professionalism, and commitment to a positive evening.