Senior Survey Says:
Your favorite memory and what will you miss the most?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Favorite Memory</th>
<th>Miss the Most</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ashontee Mercer</td>
<td>Meeting great friends</td>
<td>Mrs. Bruneau and Mrs. Lynch</td>
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<td>Xavier Garcia</td>
<td>Chosen for DTP and Boys State</td>
<td>My teachers and friends I met</td>
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<td>Nana Dwemenena</td>
<td>Freshmen bomb threats</td>
<td>Funny people at WHHS</td>
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<td>Jayvon Taylor</td>
<td>Football and making playoffs</td>
<td>Football and my teammates</td>
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<td>Jimmy Carillo</td>
<td>Peer Advocate memories</td>
<td>Peer Advocate family</td>
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<td>Cinthia Fabian</td>
<td>Going to Italy with Theater Workshop</td>
<td>My Peer Advocate Family</td>
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<td>Alex Blake</td>
<td>California with DECA</td>
<td>Friends and great teachers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Young</td>
<td>Lacrosse-Hamden game in the rain. Won in OT</td>
<td>Being with friends</td>
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Jacob Yisehak
Favorite Memory: Joining the tennis team
Miss the Most: School activities

Catherine Fournier
Favorite Memory: Winning Division Sophomore year in swimming
Miss the Most: The Lynchmeister

Louis Lubin
Favorite Memory: School Mascot memories
Miss the Most: The teachers

Billy Barrett
Favorite Memory: Playing Hand in football
Miss the Most: Friends

Israel ‘Izzy’ Kabemba
Favorite Memory: Mr. Westie
Miss the Most: Peer Advocate friends

Austin Hansen
Favorite Memory: Hockey at Ingall’s rink (Yale) Semi-finals against ND
Miss the Most: Everything hockey

Stacey Richetelli & Emily White
Favorite Memory: Time in Library with Mrs. Lynch.
Miss the Most: Funny people at WHHS

Waleed Tellawi
Favorite Memory: Fooling around with friends
Miss the Most: Waiting until the last minute. Won’t be able to do that in college

Cameron Stone
Favorite Memory: Chess in LMC 2nd period
Miss the Most: Playing Chess

Bob Moretti
Favorite Memory: Bench sitting in baseball
Miss the Most: Chess

Julia Consorte
Favorite Memory: Lacrosse-Hamden game in the rain. Won in OT
Miss the Most: The easy life

Kevin Czubin
Favorite Memory: Taking naps on the LMC couch after I finish my Work Study duties
Miss the Most: The Library

Tyler Gambardella
Favorite Memory: Mrs. Pazsak’s class
2nd period playing chess in LMC
Miss the Most: Bonds I made in Football

Qusaan Hoskie
Favorite Memory: Beating ND senior year in the rain
Miss the Most: The Library

Candice Kross & Camdyn Morgillo
Favorite Memory: Lacrosse
Miss the Most: Peer Advocates

John Biba
Favorite Memory: Tennis
Miss the Most: Nice teachers I had
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<tr>
<td>Santi Perez</td>
<td>California trip for DECA</td>
<td>Friends</td>
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<td>Samantha Palmieri</td>
<td>Lacrosse and beating Mercy in OT in the rain</td>
<td>Friends</td>
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<td>Andre Gee</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
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<td>Matt Gilliam</td>
<td>LMC</td>
<td>Friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ivan Seenarine</td>
<td>Meeting great friends</td>
<td>How laid back school is now and how hard UConn will be</td>
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<td>Brandon Carrington</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Football</td>
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<td>Katie Hoy</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Friends</td>
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<td>Matt Olenick</td>
<td>Peer Advocate retreat</td>
<td>4th period Work Study with Mrs. Heaney</td>
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<td>Jordin Gargano &amp; Morgan Hotchkiss</td>
<td>Theater Workshop</td>
<td>Theater Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dianna Bresh</td>
<td>Being in the band with my brother</td>
<td>My brother</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nate Lee</td>
<td>Getting High Honors</td>
<td>All the entertainment (the insider)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annalexia Tillman</td>
<td>Leaving</td>
<td>Teachers</td>
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It was a cold and wet Memorial Day weekend in the Berkshires, but that didn’t stop four caring men from West Haven High from giving their all to help a brave Westie Grad in need.

Sean Pesce graduated from West Haven High two years ago. After graduation, he joined the Army and was sent to Afghanistan where he was critically wounded when his unit came under fire. Sean returned back to the U.S. for treatment and to recover from severe injuries to his thigh, arm, abdomen, back spleen, kidney and spinal column.

Senior Louis Lubin said he wanted to find something good to do to help people before graduating in June and when he heard about Sean and all the expenses his family is facing during his recovery, Lubin decided raising money for the Pesce family would be a perfect act of kindness.

Luis took his idea of wanting to raise money for Sean to our school Provost Kurt Ogren, who suggested they organize a fund raiser involving them running a marathon in the Berkshires over Memorial Day weekend and ask people to support them with pledges and donations to Sean and his family. Department Head Christopher Pelatowski and Culinary Arts Teacher Dana Kent volunteered to join Lubin and Ogren in the marathon and the four began training for the race called the “Toughest Marathon in the East.

The foursome trained for months in preparation for the 26-mile run but unfortunately, Pelatowski broke a bone in his foot during training 3 ½ weeks prior to the race and was unable to take part in the run. However, Pelatowski was at the race showing support for the other three runners. The weather was miserable, 40-degrees with rain and wind and the run through the mountains was difficult, but the three ran the race with hearts filled with pride and compassion and all three completed the 26.2 mile run.

Sean was at the starting point of the race along with his parents, two brothers and a family friend. Sean was chosen as the official starter of the race and sounded the air horn to get the runners off. “It was nothing less than inspirational to see Ranger Pesce as the race started,” Ogren said.

The four men had hoped to raise $5,000 and “we exceeded our goal,” Ogren said. Ogren said he was very pleased to be able to give the Pesce Family a check for more than $5,000, which should help with some of their expenses as Sean continues his intensive rehabilitation at the VA Hospital in Boston. The money will help with expenses as his family continues to be by his side every step of the way to full recovery.

For Louis, it was his first marathon race and he did exceptionally well finishing 34th and in first place for his age group. Ogren, an experienced runner, who has run many marathons, including a 50-mile run for Wounded Warriors, finished 11th and Kent finished 77th.

“We are blessed that we live in the land of the free…. Because of the brave,” Ogren said. Sean is one of those special brave soldiers who nearly lost his life fighting for our freedom. We are proud to have done something to help a West Haven graduate during his recovery. We want him to know we appreciate his sacrifice and ask that all of you keep him in your thoughts and prayers, Ogren said.
Now We Know!  
By Kailee Mastracchio

Have you ever looked back on something and thought, “Wow, I wish I didn’t do that” or “Maybe I should have done that when I had the chance, but it’s too late now.” I’m sure all of us have had our moments of regret or perhaps wish we did better when we had the chance. High school is one of the most important parts of your life, and unfortunately there’s no one that can really tell you what you should and shouldn’t do (besides your parents of course, but no one wants to listen to them reminisce about their high school days). A lot of your high school experience is just trial and error, and as I approach my senior year I wish there had been someone in the last three years to tell me all the things I should and should not have done.

First things first. You probably want to take as many credits as you can freshman, sophomore, and junior year so that you can relax and take it easy senior year, right? Wrong. Extra credits won’t hurt you, but colleges don’t want to see that you did the bare minimum your senior year so it’s better to pace yourself and make sure your schedule isn’t too stressful.

Also, make sure you get involved! No one said you had to be class president, but it’s definitely helpful to have at least one club on your transcript. One tip that will save you a lot of time as you start applying for things is to write everything down. Every volunteer hour, award, special recognition, or extracurricular should be kept track of. It’s much easier to keep track of it as you go than to try to think back to what happened over the past four years. Another helpful tip: don’t burn bridges with your teachers. Even though you may not like them, don’t let the feeling of finally being free from that dreaded class get the best of you. You never know when you might need them to sign something for you or put in a good word. Lastly, one of the most important things you could probably do during your high school career is become best friends with your guidance counselor. Don’t wait for them to reach out to you, go into the guidance office and make an appointment with them. They can help you out immensely, especially for college recommendation letters. Your guidance counselor is one of the only people that will help guide you through the overwhelming process of high school and applying to colleges, so don’t be afraid to talk to them. Most importantly, though, make your high school experience a fun one because you only get to do it once.

Unified Sports 

at West Haven High School
Fun Facts About the Cell Phone

Mandi R. Hall

Mandi Hall has been involved in local writing projects since 2000. Previously employed by Gale: A Part of Cengage Learning as a project manager, her writing and copyediting work appears in various textbooks and knowledge portals, as well as on websites such as eHow, WiseGEEK, Kosmix.com and Business.com. Hall received her Bachelor of Arts in written communications from Eastern Michigan University in 2007.

The cell phone has a longer history than you might think.

The cell phone has gone from an oversize luxury item to a pocket-sized mini-computer throughout its evolution. Affordable, high tech, stylish and packed with features, the cell phone seems to be omnipresent in our society. Manufacturers are continuing to push the envelope on the cell phone as it pushes into the 21st century. Calling and texting are just some of the basic features available on phones today.

Inception
The earliest "wireless" communication can be traced back to 1865 and Dr. Mahlon Loomis of Virginia. Using the atmosphere as a conductor, Dr. Loomis transmitted messages within an 18-mile range. However, according to CellPhones.org, it wasn't until 1973 that the first prototype of a contemporary cell phone became available. The Motorola Dyna-Tac was introduced in New York during a public show. In 1977, the cell phone went public as it began testing in Chicago with 2,000 customers.

Government Regulation
As early as 1974, the United States government reserved the airwave space for future cellular providers. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) spent years drafting the ground rules regarding policies and regulations. The drafting process delayed the introduction of cell phones to the public. In 1978, according to AmericanHeritage.com, AT&T began testing non-handheld cell phone usage in Chicago. The company was limited by the FCC in terms of what they could do, however. Under pressure from AT&T to act fast, the FCC granted AT&T the spectrum needed for mobile services. Due to limited capacity, it was not uncommon for consumers to be on waiting lists, with doctors getting the highest priority.

Commercial Use
The United States saw commercial use of the mobile phone in 1983, when Ameritech, then part of the Bell conglomerate, began marketing the cell phone in Chicago, Illinois. Europe, however, had already started marketing commercial use of cell phones in 1981 through Nordic Mobile Telephone Systems. Operating in four European countries, Nordic Mobile was the first multinational operator of the cell phone. Operators in Italy, West Germany and France began to spring up as commercial providers; however, they were incompatible with each other. During this time, Europe began to plan its digital future for a compatible system throughout Europe.

Smartphones
Although not known as a cell phone manufacturer today, the International Business Machines (IBM) company began making a smartphone as early as 1993, according to PC Today. These phones featured rudimentary personal information management -- or PIM -- that pale in comparison to today's smartphones. The address book and calendar were features introduced in PIM phones, although third-party applications were also available. As of 2010, cell phones have some sort of PIM features, although basic phones lack the option to download applications for extensive personal management.

Additional Facts
According to Wirefly, as of September 2006, there were over 3.5 billion cell phone subscribers worldwide. Statistics also show that 72 percent of Americans own cell phones. Exclusive cell phone usage--that is, omitting one's land line and only using a cell phone--within the United States is also climbing. Approximately 20 percent of Americans also access the Internet solely from a mobile phone.

Read more: http://www.ehow.com/about_6312262_fun-cell-phone.html#ixzz2WiWQBVOP

Cellphone Policy Update  By Yingxian Guo

At the beginning of the year, West Haven High School implemented a new technology policy. Students could use their phones in the hallway between classes and in the cafeteria. In addition, ear buds were allowed during break as long as the student only wore one ear bud.

Students who were interviewed had varied opinions about how the new policy would affect West Haven High’s climate. Some students were wary, believing that with the new privileges of the cellphone policy, students would feel more inclined to use their cellphones during class and thus, become distracted. Other students welcomed the change, believing that cellphones could improve safety. Despite the disparities, almost all students feared that there would be no way to regulate the new policy since teachers would not be able to tell if phones were being used for educational purposes, such as downloading an essay, or if students were just texting or going on social media websites.

Junior Florence Diaz, who was doubtful about the benefits of the policy, now supports the use of cellphones in the hallway and the café and believes that they should be allowed in school as long as they do not disrupt education. Freshman Susie Beyl says, “Personally, I think the new cell phone policy at WHHS is going really well. Now that students are allowed to use their phones in the cafe and the halls, it eliminates the urge to use them in class. As high schoolers, let’s face it; it’s pretty hard to go a whole seven hours without using your phone, so I think being able to use it between classes and during lunch is fair to the needs of a teenager and while still respectful to the school environment.”

Likewise, junior Kailee Masstrachio comments, “I think this policy is working. I think teachers are getting stricter. But I understand why. Students can now use their phones in the hall, and teachers deserve their 40-something minutes of class.”

Other students are still not convinced that the new policy is beneficial. Sophomore Jamie Kelley says, “Although I think [the new policy is] convenient and sometimes helpful, I think that it is also a nuisance due to the fact that it’s a distraction. In the hallways, people have their eyes on their phones and walk into people a lot. I see it happen at least three times, or more, every day. In the cafeteria I’ve noticed a lot of people have their phones out and pay more attention to their timelines on Facebook over actually eating. I really feel that without cell phones in the café, students might actually do more productive things, like catching up or getting a head start on homework.”

The impacts of cell phone technology have finally permeated West Haven High School’s walls. No one is certain what consequences technology will have on traditional schools two, ten, twenty years from now. One thing is definite, however: the changing technological landscape is serving to mold this nation’s culture, starting from the formative school years.

To the left: Students using cell phones as calculators.
Yingxian Guo ('14) has won the 13th annual Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows Quintin Johnstone Statewide Essay Contest. The essay topic was “Prescription for Success?” The award ceremony was held on June 4th at the Supreme Court of Connecticut. Ying was presented with the statewide winner plaque and a $2000 check from the CT Supreme Court Senior Justice Christine S. Vertefeuille. AP US Government and Politics teacher Mark Consorte also received a coordinator award at the ceremony with Principal Pamela Gardner.
Junior To Do List  
By Marla Gagne

After being in school all year, West Haven students are almost liberated. Although you won’t have to be stuck in a classroom for six hours a day, worry about taking finals and SATs, and can go to the beach every night instead of sitting around doing dreaded math homework, juniors are not off the hook. The summer before your senior year is very important for your future. It is two months of preparation for life after high school and getting a jump start on college preparation. Before you officially check out for the school year and start enjoying the summer before your senior year, here are some things to consider doing:

1. If you have not already, register for your SAT, SAT Subject Tests, or ACTs. Although these tests are hard to review for, you can go through practice tests and books that help you get familiar with the test questions and format. If you are weakest in math, go over geometry problems or algebra II basics. Studying for these tests and taking them more than once usually raises your tests scores, which will be beneficial when applying for colleges and scholarships.

2. Start visiting colleges now! A school may seem the perfect fit for you on paper, but once you see it, you may be horrified. Visit the colleges you’re interested as much as possible and ask questions. Look at size, location, dorm rooms, majors, clubs/sports, and how to apply to that college. Do they have air conditioning in the dorms, are cars allowed on campus, and do they offer merit based scholarships? Find out!

3. Summer is definitely a time for relaxation and fun, but try to do something constructive too. Go out and do some volunteer work once a week or a few times a month. Colleges look for well-rounded students, not just the students with the most money or the highest rank. If you complete forty hours and get the community service papers signed, you will get a cord at graduation.

4. Start to fill out some forms such as your “Senior Brag Sheet” or your Activities Resume on Naviance and think of topics for your college essay. Starting in August, the Common Application will be released and you can start reviewing what information you will need. Try to make a list of all your community service experience, clubs, sports, awards, and classes you have taken along with great personal accomplishments and life changing experiences.

5. Before you leave for summer break, try to ask a few teachers to write letters of recommendations, which you will need when applying to colleges and scholarships. Think of which teachers know you the best and can help show your talents and skills to the college of your choice. Usually, students pick teachers from junior year because the teachers just had you and, in the fall, your senior teachers are just getting to know you. Also, try to pick a teacher in your area of study. Mrs. Plumey is a great reference for English majors and Mr. Dickson is a great pick for biology majors.

6. Finally, start looking into scholarships. College is very expensive and besides tuition, you may have to pay for room & board, books, and living expenses. Look on collegeboard, naviance, or just google “college scholarships” for much needed money!

Attention Juniors:
You will be seniors before you know it!

Attention Westies:
Don’t forget your summer reading!
Go to: http://www.whschools.org/page.cfm?p=6447 for more details. This is the list handed out to all incoming Freshmen, and upcoming Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors.
Coming to America: Gisella’s story  By Yingxian Guo

Meet Gisella Tapia. Gisella is just one of many students who make up West Haven High School’s uniquely diverse population. Sitting across from her during the interview, one is immediately drawn towards her warm smile. Enthusiastic and outgoing, Gisella eagerly shares her fascinating story of the transition between two distinct cultures. Her journey from her home country to the halls of West Haven High is inspiring, hopeful, and beautiful, giving us a glimpse of the life of just one of many immigrants who have made their home in America.

Gisella moved to the United States of America from Manta, Ecuador, almost six years ago. Her older brother and father had already lived in the USA, and her dad wanted her to move as well so she could get a better education. Meanwhile, her mom stayed in Ecuador. It took over 7 years for her father to get legal papers to immigrate to the United States—the increasing number of people of all different ethnicities also trying to obtain their papers prolonged the process even longer. She said her first impression of an American school was that it “was pretty bad.” She didn't speak any English. This language barrier instantly made her feel lonely and uncomfortable. Moreover, she struggled with bullies who she believed thought they were better than her because “they had nicer things and spoke English.” Initially, she did not like schools here and was traumatized by the bullying. Fortunately, during middle school, she found a silver lining. In Carrigan Middle School, a teacher befriended her and helped her deal with her bullying problem. She describes him as making her feel more comfortable and at home in the vast, daunting country. Eventually, she learned to pay no attention to the trivial gossip of others about her and focus on what sparked her interests. Soon enough, she began to ignore all of the bullies and instead pursued who she wanted to be as a person, and the bullying slowly stopped. She learned English in one year; the learning eased by studying the language briefly in Ecuador (her uncle showed her English language learning videos that helped her quickly absorb the language). Gisella remarks, “I like English. I think that's why I learned it so quickly.”

She grew up with all men in her house, so they were very protective of her (no make-up, getting her eyebrows done, hanging out with friends, etc.) As she got older, she grew into the new environment. She began wearing makeup, dressing according to her style, and doing more “teenage girl things.” Now, while it's still very different from her schools in Ecuador, she really enjoys West Haven High School.

Gisella describes the schools in Ecuador as extremely different from the schools in America. Specifically, Gisella and her classmates went to class from 7:30am-12pm. They had gym class outside every day. In the cafeteria, there was a station for the mothers of the students to sell homemade food. The mothers would form a group, buying ingredients, sharing recipes, and cooking food together. Students could then buy their food and all of the proceeds would go back to the school. Describing the relationships between students in her school, Gisella noted that everyone at her school was very unified and watched out for each other. She stayed in one room all day and her teachers switched rooms. Students had the same teacher for four years per subject (i.e. same science teacher for four years). Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 were considered high school (called escuela secundaria).

Her school offered academic classes just as West Haven High School does. However, Gisella observes that she had a lot more homework and independent work in her school in Ecuador. In fact, teachers were not around after school for extra help (and tests were not allowed to be retaken) so Gisella and her classmates had to do most—if not all—of the work on their own. Commenting on this, Gisella said during the interview that she appreciates that West Haven High’s teachers have office hours for extra help. The grading system was out of 20: a 17 is equivalent to a ‘C’, 18 is a ‘B’, and 19/20 is an A/A+. Everyone always had to participate in their classes and activities and there was an annual competition among the school district, which Gisella fondly compared to the Olympics. For the competition, classes competed with other grades in dancing, athletics, and modeling competitions. According to Gisella, in Ecuador, it is harder to attend a university. Prospective university students have to pass a difficult test, and if one passed, he or she would have to pay all dues independently (no sort of financial aid is offered). Her school in Ecuador did not offer any career programs such as West Haven High School’s nursing program. Gisella concludes that “the United States offers many more opportunities.”

Commenting on the adjustment between two different cultures, Gisella remembers that it quite difficult. In fact, in the first few months in America, it was very difficult, but she noted that the more she has lived here, the more she has grown accustomed to the now-familiar land and has learned to be very independent. She has gotten through her transition to the United States with optimism.

After the interview questions, Gisella was characteristically eager to freely share more about Ecuador and her experience as an immigrant. In Ecuador, she was not allowed to work until she finished high school, so seeing teenagers work in various fields is very fascinating to her. Giselle believes that, in Ecuador, people are generally friendlier and more family oriented whereas, in her opinion, in the US, everyone is spread out and less connected.

Also, in Ecuador, most things were within walking distance whereas in the US, Giselle observes that one needs a car to get just about anywhere. Gisella is also not used to seeing corporate stores everywhere since Ecuador consisted mainly of small, family owned, specialty shops.

After college, Gisella plans to go back to Ecuador to visit her family. She is considering pursuing a nursing career or a travel-oriented career. At the end of the interview, Gisella concluded to the Rostrum that she “really likes it here.” Thank you to freshman Susie Beyl for reporting on this article.
Prom was a Blast  By Marla Gagne

Prom—the night you have been waiting for your whole life. It’s the big event that will allegedly make or break your high school career. So, what is all the hype about? Prom seems simple enough—get dressed up, dance with some friends, eat some food...right? Wrong!

Girls spend weeks shopping for the perfect dress that will wow the crowd. She makes sure every detail is planned—the shoes, hair, dress, jewelry, limo, and picture poses—so her prom pictures, which will last a lifetime, will be perfect. And the guys...well they listen, show up, and smile.

So, after weeks of planning and spending time preparing, the night arrives. Right now, it’s one of the most important events of your life; a night filled with fun, unforgettable memories shared with your date or your friends. You are not sure what to expect, the only prom experience you have is from watching movies, but you hope for the best. So, did the “greatest night of your life” fulfill its hype or did it fizzle? Did you never want to leave the dance floor or did you regret missing that new episode of the Kardashians to spend your night in the cold wearing painful shoes and surrounded by a bunch of strangers?

Well, according to our juniors, the prom night lived up to people’s expectations...mostly. Before the big night juniors felt anxious, wondering if they would be booed off the dance floor or have a high musical experience. Everyone might not have went onto the dance floor belting out the songs and using jazz hands (shout out to the theatre kids), but it was quite the night.

Everyone felt the chill in the air as they froze for prom pictures (the guys got no sympathy), but soon warmed up on the dance floor. The dresses were colorful, the room was decorated like “a diamond in the sky,” food was served—Little Italy and an American food corner—and the night ended on a sweet note with make your own sundaes. Girls tossed aside their killer heels and guys threw off their jackets, ready to dance away the night. Junior Florence Diaz looks back at prom night calling it “a blast” and “lots of fun.” Other juniors, such as Coleman Walsh and Miya Biden, were unsure of what to expect but felt prom lived up to their expectations. Hanging out with friends and going crazy on the dance floor was great, but some felt the food and dj did not live up to their expectations.

Prom sounds fun, but was it worth all the money? Buying tickets, pictures, limos, dresses/tuxes, getting accessories, flowers, and more adds up very quickly and can leave you spending hundreds of dollars for one person, one night. Even though the night was pricey, most juniors say it is worth it. Coleman acknowledges prom can be very pricey, especially for girls, but sees it’s worth it. He likes that for one night everyone gets dressed up to look the best they can and says, “If you get one compliment from someone, then the cost is worth it.” Sure you spend hundreds of dollars on a dress you’ll probably only wear once, but that’s what makes the night so special. Miya Biden says splurging on one night feels good and you have a fun time in return.

So, the junior prom, overall, received a good review, but how can you prepare for you prom? Here are a few tips for future prom goers that will help you save some aggravation and money!

Florence Diaz: Flo unfortunately did not get to experience too much of the prom food because “it disappeared fast.” Make sure to get your food in the beginning or you’ll miss out on your dinner!
Coleman Walsh: Coleman says he will never take a bus for future proms. Buses are a cheap alternative way of transportation over limos, but make sure you know what you’re getting yourself into. Know the people you’re taking the bus with (not a kid you talk to once or twice a year), know where/when you’re getting picked up and dropped off, and be warned—you have to leave when everyone leaves, even if you want to stay for the rest of your prom night.

Dali Irizarry: Dali says, “Prep for prom doesn't have to be super expensive. I ordered my dress online and it was $75, opposed to those in stores that are $150 and up.
For future prom goers, especially the girls, I'd say look EVERYWHERE for their prom outfit; the perfect one can be in the most unlikely of places.”

Miya Biden: Miya says next time she’ll take a party bus so she can hang out with all her friends on the way there and back and not have to worry about having a few separate limos. For her, more expensive options, such as the limo, are worth it.