

Headland Middle School and the Ninth Grade Academy
#1 Martin Luther King Dr.
Headland, AL 36303
334-585-7083

Linda Saffold, Principal

Micah Johnson, Assistant Principal

February 3, 2021

Dear Parents:

The Headland Middle School/Ninth Grade Academy Formal is scheduled for Friday, April 30, 2021. This semi-formal event will be held from 6:00PM-8:00PM at the City of Headland Square. If the weather is unfavorable, events will be held at the Charles W. Smith Gym (old HHS gym). \$25 per person payments will be accepted February 2, 2021 until April 16, 2021. Please make all payments during school hours. Cash, cashier's check and money order will all be accepted as a form of payment. **Personal checks will NOT be accepted. Money will not be accepted at the door.**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student may have a desire to attend this event, and to review with you our expectations regarding the formal.

WEARING OF MASKS: PER REGULATION OF STATE MANDATE.

1. **Expectations:** Students with dates from other schools must complete and return a Guest Request Form for administrative approval prior to purchasing tickets. Parent permission forms for out of district students must be returned prior to purchasing tickets as well. Any student attempting to change their date listed on the ticket must make such changes 5 days prior to Formal; otherwise, the new date will not be admitted. Headland Middle School/ Ninth Grade Academy reserves the right to deny any date request.
2. **Discipline:** Formal is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, any student who is presently in Alternative School at the time of the event may not attend the Formal.
3. **Entrance to Formal:** All students and guests may begin arriving at The Square at 5:45 p.m. The Formal will officially begin at 6:00 p.m.; however, the photographer will be available as early as 5:30 p.m. No refunds will be given. No person over the age of 17 will be admitted. **All Formal activities end at 8:00 PM. Parents should have their student(s) picked up from The Square no later than 8:00 PM.** We must remember that safety is the most important issue on this special evening and we would like to encourage all students to return home unless parents have made other arrangements.
4. **District and school policies apply to Formal as they do to any other school activity.** Please remind your students to be aware of our expectations and the consequences associated with them, particularly with respect to alcohol. Alabama law places liability on

those adults who secure or provide facilities for student parties that include alcoholic beverages, where underage students are involved.

5. **Attire:** We do accept the fact that formal wear for the female students may be a bit more “revealing” (spaghetti straps and off-the-shoulder wear) than allowed by regular school dress policy. However, it is very important that your formal attire meet a high standard of decency. Dresses that reveal too much of the body around the chest, stomach, navel, lower back and sides are not appropriate. Two-piece dresses, holes, cut-outs, or sheer material covering the cut-outs in the dress are not permitted. Covering up an unacceptable dress with a shawl is still unacceptable. Slits or splits in clothing must be modest (around the knee area) and exposure of the lower back must be no further than the waistline. If there is a question about the appropriateness of the attire, do not wait until the evening of the Formal to get approval. School personnel will have the authority to make the final decision regarding admittance to The Formal. This is a school-sponsored event, and we must maintain a level of appropriateness in the way students are dressed for the Formal. **Gentlemen** are expected to be dressed in formal attire (tuxedos or suits). No canes will be allowed at any time. **Ladies** no high heels will be worn on the gym floor.
Any students who do not meet the standard of dress will be asked to leave. It is important that our young ladies and young men are dressed in a manner that does not undermine the appropriate values that Headland Middle/Ninth Grade Academy promotes.
6. **Dancing:** Headland Middle/Ninth Grade Academy bans modes of dancing that are inappropriate, offensive and demeaning. The clear sexual overtones of this form of dancing are certainly not the kind of social climate we want to promote at school-sponsored activities. As parents, we hope you agree with this position and will remind your students of what is appropriate in regard to dancing and having fun. Students who participate in this kind of dancing will be asked to leave The Formal and no refund will be given.
7. **Photos: Formal fee does not include photos.** Professional photos will be available (optional). Students will sign up for picture times prior to Formal. Picture times will be from 5:30-7:30 PM. Please be prompt for your appointment. When photos are returned from processing, they will be reviewed prior to distributing them to students. Those photos that display gang signs or inappropriate poses will not be given to the students. No refunds will be given.
8. **Forms:** Attached to this document you will find the Guidelines and Guest Request Form. Required signatures must be completed by students, parents and guests along with address and phone number information. Formal tickets cannot be purchased until these forms are completed and returned.
9. **Mementos:** To remember this special occasion, students and guests will receive a t-shirt. Order forms will be available soon.

10. **Food:** NO food will be provided. However, WATER will be available. No outside food or drink permitted.