

OHS Prom rescheduled April 18 due to COVID-19 concerns

By Ada Grace Perry

staff writer

On March 16, it was announced that a decision was made to postpone The OHS Prom this year. Prom was originally scheduled to be April 4, but due the global situation regarding COVID-19, prom has been postponed to April 18.

“Based on the OSD decision to close school, initially, this would have had us out until the week of the prom. I felt like that was not enough time to handle everything that needed to be done. It was going to be stressful for everyone and I was concerned with needing more time,” OHS Principal Noah Hamilton said.

Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves has also passed an executive decision to close all Mississippi public schools until April 17, which could possibly push back the date of prom once more.

“I am afraid that it will [affect the date of prom]. Especially with the possibility that this is going to last longer than the timeframe that has been set,” Hamilton said.

Senior and Student Body Presi-

dent Don Fruge agrees with the decision to push back prom and hopes that prom will still end up happening.

“I feel like prom being pushed back was the best move that the school could have made for the students, specifically the juniors and seniors,” Fruge said. “Now that we are out until April 17 and prom was scheduled for April 18, I am still hopeful that prom will happen but also realize it might not happen.”

Prom being postponed causes lots of emotion from both senior and junior classes. Prom is something many students look forward to and not only hearing that it is delayed, but knowing it could be potentially canceled, could be upsetting.

“A lot of the seniors are upset. We could’ve never pictured anything like this happening, and just the thought of losing potential memories hurts,” Fruge said. “More than just prom, a lot of the future is uncertain right now, and that is what many of the seniors are thinking about. I know that the juniors are upset too, because of a missed memory as well.”

Hamilton emphasizes the importance of safety and of following

guidelines for students and their families during this time.

“This is a very difficult time for everyone. You don’t know who has come into contact with whom. The best thing to do is to follow the guidelines that have been suggested, and implemented. It is important to stay home unless you have to go to work or essential errands, like grocery store, doctor, etc. And when you do have to go out, practice social distancing. Stay at least six feet away from others,” Hamilton said. “How long this will affect everyone is dependent upon if everyone follows guidelines. The more unnecessary interactions, the longer this pandemic will grip us. Right now, the focus is April 17. Only time will tell.”

During this time of uncertainty and quarantine, Fruge gives a message of positivity and hope to the student body.

“I want all of the student body to know that this will all be okay, and eventually we will return to normal. Sure, we may not have a prom, and for seniors ,graduation is up in the air too, but it will all be okay. Underclassmen will have the opportunity to

experience their proms in the future even if we don’t have one this year, and seniors will move onto college, work, and life after high school next year,” Fruge said. “I hate that this is happening, and I really hate that it is happening during the class of 2020’s senior year, but at the end of the day we will get through this and it will be okay.”

While students may still be adjusting to the changes that are being made during this time of closure, Hamilton gives advice on how to react to this abnormal situation and encourages students to make a routine while using the resources that are available to them.

“Practice guidelines and stay safe. Do not put yourself in unnecessarily risky situations. Try to get into routines. Work on school work at the same time every day. Use the Zoom Office Hours for getting help or asking questions of teachers. And be kind. We can easily get into a critical mindset,” Hamilton said. “We need to remain positive and be caring and compassionate with our neighbors and all of society.”

CONFIRMED NUMBER OF CORONAVIRUS CASES BY STATE

*AS OF 3/27/20

- 1-100
- 101-250
- 251-500
- 501-1000
- 1001-5000
- 5000+

