

# Seniors look forward to Project Graduation

By: Mark Steffen  
News Editor

This year's Project Graduation will be held on Friday, June 1 from 10 P.M. to 5 A.M at the Moline YMCA.

One of the most anticipated parties of the year, Project Graduation is an end-of-the-year all-night event aimed at preventing underage drinking and driving by new graduates. It will be filled with food, fun, and plenty of prizes for all in attendance.

Across the country, 35% of high school seniors admitted to drinking five or more alcoholic beverages twice a week. By planning Project Graduation all through the night and into the early morning, parents hope to prevent as many seniors as possible from drinking and driving.

One of the biggest concerns with drinking and driving is when a drunk student attempts to ride in a car with a less drunk, yet still drunk, student. This problem is easily remedied with good judgement and a night at Project Graduation.

Food will be on hand all night, including pizza, tacos, Whitey's ice cream, candy, and several more snacks.

This year's grand prize is a 1990 blue four-door Ford Tempo, but all seniors are guaranteed to leave with at least some sort of a prize. All prizes are things that will be helpful next year for people going off to college. Prizes include a Pizza Pizzazz, a Smokey Joe grill, a rolling cooler with chair, 3-piece suitcase set, boom box, tent, remote control fan, miniature Dirt Devil vacuum, cappuccino maker, and a microwave.

This year the event will be hosted by parents Paula and Mark Evans. Their son, Senior Bryce Evans says, "Project Graduation is the final step of our high school career, and I'm looking forward to having an awesome time."

Students will be offered a surplus of activities. Activities include being mesmerized by a hypnotist, card games, and plenty of dancing to the sounds of a professional DJ.

Also, some of the popular activities from last year's party will be around, such as a casino with dollar bills labeled with the faces of MHS faculty members, as well as inflatable sports matches, like jousting and sumo wrestling. An obstacle course will also be on hand.

Senior Yu Chen says sums up the idea of Project Graduation best. "Graduation: it was the best of times, it was the worst of times, but now it's time to parrrrry." Like Chen, the rest of the senior class is equally relieved to finish the past four years and celebrate with Project Graduation as they move on to the next steps of their lives.



Seniors Ryan Marik, Bryce Evans, and Jimmy Hallene gives a thumbs up to this year's Project Graduation grand prize, a 1990 blue Ford. (Photo by Patel)

## Moline talks year-round schooling

By: Tucker Gritton  
News Reporter

The votes are in: Next year's school calendar looks much more balanced than this year's schedule. The school year will start at about the same time as this year, but that is where the similarities end.

At the end of October, there will be an entire week off of school. We will return to school the following Monday, and from then it is only about two months until we leave the grounds again for Winter break.

Returning on January 7, we stay in school for a record three months until spring break begins, returning on March 31.

Our extra time off is reflected in June, when we will stay a little bit longer, not being released until June 6th (June 9th if we happen to have a snow day).

Some people are opposed to the schedule change, saying that it will create a shorter summer break in '08, and that they don't want to stay any longer than necessary.

"I don't like the idea. Summer is when I do everything and I don't like any extra time cutting into my summer," says freshman Trevor White, "besides, I don't really like fall either, so I don't mind going to school then."

On the contrary, many people have said that they like the new plan. They feel that a fall vacation will be a welcome break from the school year and the hard work. "I think it's a great idea. I am already planning what to do over my fall break, as long as our teachers don't give us any

big projects for it," says Keyur Kurani.

The Superintendent Cal Lee, says that the new schedule is not an attempt to move closer to a balanced calendar, also known as "year-round school."

"A committee member just proposed it and that was the popular vote- we had nothing to do with it," says Lee. Three calendars were proposed to the teachers, and it appears as though they favor a fall break.

Though Moline School District plans to move to a balanced calendar schedule in the not too distant future, changes to certain facilities must be made first. Expect for the high school to have air conditioning before seeing any major changes in the schedule.

The reason for the shift to a balanced calendar schedule is mainly because of the shortened summer. It allows for a shorter "forgetting" time, when students' brains are turned off, and makes for better remembering of skills, terms, and facts learned in the year before.

Students would not attend school for any more days, but the days would be more spread out with more and larger breaks. United Township, which has already adopted a balanced calendar, follows a schedule of nine weeks of school, followed by two weeks of break, throughout the school year.

With the Moline School District looking to improve standardized testing scores, officials hope year-round schooling will be a good way to improve the "forgetting time" problem, which will, in turn, hopefully raise test scores.

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