

# Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District

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September 25, 2022

Dear Cheektowaga-Sloan Community,

This is a follow-up to the communication that was distributed via our mass texting system on Friday, September 23rd regarding alumni attendance at the bonfire. I would like to thank our community members who reached out to me directly through email with specific questions. I greatly appreciate communicating directly with members of our community and working together to address concerns. We are always here to listen, respond and make adjustments as needed.

The District has decided to permit alumni to attend the bonfire event. It is important for me to share that alumni were always welcome to each of the public events surrounding Homecoming with the exception of the bonfire where limitations were placed beginning in 2021.

As you may remember from last year, the decision to limit attendance at the bonfire was with a focus on safety for all attendees. The bonfire was the only event where restrictions were placed, and this was in response to very serious incidents that occurred with past students. Unfortunately, there have been serious situations with past students which resulted in police involvement which made the event quite unsafe in past years. Our number one priority is always making sure our events are safe for everyone which at times means making difficult decisions in order to make sure we are keeping everyone safe. Additionally, in light of the recent tragedies that have taken place in our community specifically at Tops Supermarket in our neighboring community and in our country, it is important that we all maintain a focus on safety which is another reason why we were continuing with this practice that began last year. Particularly with the homecoming events surrounding next weekend, we ask for your partnership and support in helping us ensure the safest environment possible specifically at our upcoming bonfire event.

Thank you again to those community members who reached out to me directly, and thank you for partnering with us to ensure the safest evening possible for all attendees. We appreciate your direct contact and look forward to a fun, safe, and exciting event this Friday night!

Best Regards,

Robert N. Julian, Jr.  
Principal  
John F. Kennedy High School