



# The Woodlands High School PTO Homecoming 411

A Guide for TWHS Students (and their parents) for Homecoming

The TWHS homecoming celebration is held annually in the fall during football season. It includes a full week of events such as spirit dress days, a pep rally, a parade, football games, and a dance. Homecoming is organized by the TWHS Student Council. While homecoming is traditionally the welcoming back of alumni to school, it is also a celebration of school spirit and pride for current students.

## **What are Student Spirit dress up days?**

During homecoming week, each school day is a spirit dress up day, and everyone is encouraged to participate. Student Council plans a theme for each day, such as 'Merica Monday, Woodlands Wednesday, Formal Friday (seniors only) and Western Day (grades 9, 10, & 11). Spirit dress up days are communicated to the students through announcements. On dress up days, students are required to meet the Dress and Personal Grooming Policy requirements described in the TWHS Student/Parent Handbook.

## **When is the Homecoming Parade and who participates?**

The TWHS Homecoming Parade is called the Red & Green Parade. It is usually held the Wednesday of Homecoming Week. Many athletic organizations and student groups create floats and march in the parade. Community members and parents cheer on the floats. The parade route begins and ends near campus.

## **What is a homecoming mum?**

The homecoming mum is popular tradition throughout Texas, and mums are very popular at TWHS. The word "mum" is short for Chrysanthemum. It is a large, artificial chrysanthemum flower, decorated with ribbons and trinkets that reflect its wearer's school spirit and extracurricular activities. Students with dates to homecoming must decide if they are going to exchange mums. (Not everyone does!)

The mums for girls can be quite large; they are usually worn around the neck like a necklace. Some students have adapted additional traditions regarding the style of the mums. For instance, some mums have one Chrysanthemum for freshman, two for sophomores, three for juniors, and four for seniors. Many seniors wear mums that are entirely white, while other seniors prefer a mum in their favorite color, such as pink. Other grades wear mums decorated with the TWHS red and green school colors. Boys' "garter" mums are smaller and are attached to a garter worn along a boy's sleeve. Here are some pictures of mums and garters:

## The Woodlands High School PTO Homecoming 411 (continued)



Mums can get expensive, so set a budget. The most economical mums are hand-made. There are many, many websites that explain how to make a mum. Craft stores such as Michaels, Hobby Lobby, and the local grocery stores also teach how to make a mum. They carry MANY school-specific ribbons, trinkets, teddy bears, and toys to add to your mum. If you prefer not to make your mum yourself, there are several florists and businesses in the area that will custom make your mum for you. Be sure to order your mum early if you are going to get yours made; they book up quickly.

- **When do students trade mums?** Mums are typically exchanged between students and their dates on a weeknight during homecoming week. Often parents will come to the exchange and take pictures.
- **Do student wear their mums to school?** On the Friday of homecoming week, mums are worn to school. Some groups, such as varsity cheerleading, bring their mums to the Friday night varsity homecoming football game.
- **Do I have to have a date to get a mum?** No! Many parents will make mums for their students.
- **Does everyone participate in the mum tradition?** No! Not every student participates in every event of homecoming every year. Participation in the mum tradition is completely optional. Sometimes, about 60-70% of students may have a mum or garter. As an alternative to the mum, some students prefer to donate the money that they would spend on mums to charitable causes set up by student organizations.

### **Can I have more information about the Homecoming Dance?**

The Homecoming dance is usually the Saturday of Homecoming Week. It is held in the TWHS large gym. It is organized by the TWHS student council, under the guidance of TWHS administration. Student Council sells tickets to the dance at school during homecoming week.

- **Do I have to have a date to attend the Homecoming Dance?** No! While some students have dates, others go as a group of girls or boys.

## The Woodlands High School PTO Homecoming 411 (continued)

- **What happens before the Homecoming Dance?** While nothing is formally arranged by student council before the dance, some kids will meet up at a home or a local park to take pictures. Parents are usually invited to these events. Following that, the kids may go out to dinner together at an area restaurant. It does not have to be an expensive restaurant. (Even Canes' has received several groups of homecoming guests!) Some students skip the photos and dinner and meet up at the dance.
- **What do I wear to the Homecoming Dance?** Attire ranges from dressy casual to more formal. Boys wear suits with a tie. If they have a date, their tie matches the girl's dress. Girls wear anything from nice dresses to knee length semi-formals. As an alternative to purchasing a dress or suit, there are several local vendors that rent attire for homecoming.
- **Do I wear my mum or a corsage to the Homecoming Dance?** The mums and garters are NOT worn to the dance. Instead, many dates will exchange corsages and boutonnières before the dance.
- **How do I get to the dance and home after the dance?** Transportation to and from the dance varies. The school does not provide buses or any other form of transportation. Some students who have their drivers licenses carpool and drive themselves. Some students arrange for parents to drop them off and pick them up. Other students will arrange limousines that bring their group to before-dance activities and home after the dance.
- **What happens after the dance?** Many kids head home at the conclusion of the dance. Some arrange an after-party at a student's home or another location, but there are no official events organized for the time after the dance.