

To All Ladies Attending the Military Ball

*Remember the purpose of etiquette applies to all these rules.

Composure and Poise

- **Stand tall like a Marine**, but when floating across the floor- forget everything you ever learned at drill.
 - This is your time to be a princess!

Posing for Photos and Pictures

- **ADD PERSONALITY TO YOUR PHOTOS!** This is a night to remember — don't be a freeze-frame shot for every single flash!
- **Relax**, you want to look back and be happy with your memories, regardless of how you *think* you look. You'll look back and regret not having pictures with certain people so make sure to take advantage of cocktail hour to capture those moments!

Compliments

- Know when to say thank you.
- Not every compliment needs you to regurgitate one in return.

The Guy

- **Cadet Date** – Biggest obstacle: making him feel important
 - Uniform- nothing special? Compliment how it looks especially sharp, or how he holds himself, or how he makes it look good - Guys like compliments too!
 - They try hard to get their hair to look nice too, make sure to mention it!
 - Let him open the door for you, pull out your chair, and take your arm!!

- **Never resist chivalry!**
 - (But, that doesn't mean you should expect your date to be at your beck and call at every moment)

BHS Student Date/Other School Student Date

- Biggest obstacle: making sure he's up to par with the cadets
 - Compliment his suit, his tux, his hair- whatever! He got all cleaned up for you so acknowledge and appreciate it
 - Compliment everything. He doesn't know everyone and doesn't quite realize what he's in for. Make sure you are his rock!
 - Introduce him to everyone you talk to. He isn't only eye candy, he can talk, too
LOL
 - Make sure he's especially comfortable and well introduced at your table
 - You aren't attached at the hip by any means, but if you leave him- let him know where you're going so you aren't abandoning him. (This goes for all dates!)
 - Try your best to not be with other guys all night and forget about him.

Communicate!

- If this Military Ball means a lot to you - **LET THEM KNOW.**
 - He'll try harder to accept even the weirdest of traditions (like "parading the beef")
- Make sure you and him talk about corsage and the boutineer.

Dancing

- **You and your non-dancing date:**
 - You can't force him - don't trigger his defense mechanism by running up, catching

him off guard, and dragging him up there. He will resist if you push.

- Encourage him. Let him know what we already understand- girls love confidence in guys, not their dance moves. *Ease into it with a slow song*
- Your go-to waltz partner should be your date. If you don't have a date, reach out to someone in your class who you can dance with during the waltz.

➤ **The Waltz vs. getting durrty**

- Ballroom dancing is your opportunity to be picture perfect. Even if dancing the waltz is not your best skill, get on that dance floor when it is time and try your best!!
- **Know the subtle difference between freak on the dance floor and over-the-top trashy... PDA doesn't just mean kissing.**

Elegance

- Glamorizing – Accessories, jewelry, make-up, smelling good- how fabulous is too fabulous?
- Know when to say when and **keep it simple and gorgeous.**
- You have the perfect dress, the perfect date, the perfect hairdo: don't let anything or anyone ruin your night!!!!

Things to keep in mind:

➤ **Rules for shoes:**

- Know when the time is right to be barefoot in the ballroom
- Bring socks to dance in after wearing heels all night! (you won't look silly, after a long night of dancing, everyone will have swapped their heels for some comfy socks)

➤ **Hygiene tips:**

- NO SOLID DEODORANT. You're wearing a gown. C'mon, let's be real. That's visible.
(Try spray or gel deodorant but **PLEASE** do not go without it.)
- Bring breath mints for you and your guy, they will be in the bathroom but having them in your purse can be more subtle.

End of the Night

- Be gracious to your date! Let him know what an amazing night it was.
- Kiss worthy? Let's state the obvious - don't do anything *you* or *your date* don't want to do.
 - ****NO means NO!****
- After parties?! Be careful who you surround yourself with and remember your actions have consequences.
- Relax! Be confident! **You will always look gorgeous, no matter what you think!** Don't stress! You are a princess, and you've got this! Have Fun!

Sincerely,

The GENTS Officers of 2023