

## Does prom preparation pay off in the end?

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Staff Reporters

A lot of time, hard work and stress go into planning, decorating and preparing for prom. Not only does each individual go through the time of getting her dress or his tux, shoes and hair perfect for that special night, many different groups also go through weeks of preparing to transform the lunchroom into a beautiful ballroom.

Student Council's prom committee chooses the theme in the fall and begins designing decorations. The design plan always involves several challenges: creating focal points in Commons' vast open space, transforming the bland ceiling tile and camouflaging the center pole that supports the ceiling. Not all of the work happens on the Friday before prom, either. Senior Hope Patterson, who is part of the prom committee, sewed 69 gossamer panels in her spare time to transform the ceiling into the night sky.

"It's pretty stressful because there is a lot of planning and hours that we put into it. It takes a lot of people to make it happen," Patterson said.

Not only does the prom committee take part in the planning, but building construction classes start weeks before prom putting together props and sets for it.

"We built walls and columns for prom. I really like to help out and can't wait to go to prom my junior year, and I hope to still be building props for prom then, too," freshman John Calvin Hughes said.

Some juniors continue to decorate for

prom even after working their mandatory three hours. Junior Connor Armstrong got in at least six or seven hours of prom decorating.

"I enjoy decorating for prom because I know it will all be worth it in the end," Armstrong said.

Juniors have to decorate to attend prom because they are throwing it for the seniors.

"I think its a really good thing to have the students be a part of the decoration process, it makes them appreciate it more," ISS supervisor Michael Bentley said.

It took weeks to decorate for prom. Students and teachers hung gossamer on the ceiling, created mood lighting, added curtains, columns, tables and plants, created three chandeliers and completely made the middle column disappear by wrapping it in chicken wire stuffed with tissue paper pomps to create a hedge. When the decorators left at 2:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25, commons had been transformed into a 1920s mansion and garden.

"Every prom I go to, you can't fathom that it's the Commons you eat lunch in everyday," Bentley said.

Aside from decorating, preparing for prom is stressful. Girls spend hundreds of dollars on the perfect dress and shoes. Guys stress about

their tuxes matching their dates' dresses. Students spend a lot of time planning where they are going to eat, what prom group they are in, ordering the corsage and boutonniere, what they are doing after prom, what time and where they are taking pictures, getting their nails

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Photo by Kristin King

**Sophomore Justin Craine and junior Audrey Hunsinger took "photo booth" pictures at prom.**

and eyebrows done and how their hair and makeup are going to be fixed, whether they pay to have it done or do it themselves. In the past, people have even rented limos for the night.

Prom Queen, senior Sindasha Makins, got her nails done the Friday before prom. The day of the prom, she went to Sephora in the mall for makeup and got her hair fixed that morning. She got the corsage and boutonniere at Ingle's, and her date picked them up that morning. She found her dress on Voilà Bridal's Instagram page and called to make sure it was still in, then picked it up the very next day.

"I chose my dress because I didn't want to look like everyone else. Instead of going with the princess look, I decided to be different and wear black lace,"

Makins said.

Junior Devon Freeman rented a fitted tux for \$130 and also got the corsage and boutonniere from Holmes Photography. He also went all out and bought a new pair of sunglasses and a new bottle of cologne. Freeman spent plenty of time planning the evening, but he still faced some challenges coordinating the meal.

"It was stressful getting the diner reservations and the times together with my prom group," Freeman said.

In spite of the stress of planning, shopping and decorating, prom night falls magically into place each year.

"All the hard work was worth it in the end because the fantasy I had of how prom was going to be when I was a little girl came true. I felt like the most beautiful girl in the world," junior Abbey Smith said.

  
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