

Project Graduation



St. Agnes Academy
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What is Project Graduation?

As a result of losing 7 teenagers to driving under the influence during graduation week in 1979, Oxford Hills High School in Maine created Project Graduation, a chemical-free graduation celebration, resulting in no fatalities or alcohol-related injuries in 1980.*

*<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00000533.htm>

How Can I Help?

Your Donations + Your Time

Parent donations go toward rentals, food, and fun surprises for the girls. We also collect gift cards for prizes. Mr. Tran will happily receive any donations throughout the year.

Parent volunteers are key to creating the perfect evening for these girls. We gather on Friday afternoon to set up and decorate. Also, we always need helping hands for the overnight stay. The evening goes by so quickly with all the fun events we have planned. Watching the girls have pure fun and create a lasting memory is worth all the hard work! Please email dtran@saa-sds.org if you'd like to volunteer.

How did Project Graduation start at St. Agnes?

Heather Valdez, O.P.A. started teaching at SAA in 2003 and became the Dean of the Upper School in 2021. She organized and implemented the first event in 2006.

"I felt very passionate about this last, safe experience for our students. We had Project Graduation at my high school, and it was amazing."

David Tran (Upper School Biomedical and STEM Coordinator) has been the faculty liaison since 2014. It is with David's guidance that Project Graduation has continued to be a successful final event for the girls to spend one last night together as a class.

At SAA's Project Graduation, the volunteer team of parents and teachers love keeping the girls busy with inflatables, games, crafts, food, dancing, and surprises all night long.