

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Rampello 8th Grade Banquet

1. What is the date of the Invaders Awards and Banquet?

Thursday May 23rd , 2024

2. What is the plan for the day?

Subject to change - times approximate

S=Student, P=Parent, C=Photo Opportunity

8:00-8:05	Homeroom
8:05-8:25	Group Portrait (outside music suite) S, P, C
8:30-10:15	Awards Ceremony S, P, C
10:15-10:40	Family Portraits S, P, C
10:15-10:40	Cooling-off period in HR S
10:45-11:15	Transport to banquet S
11:15-12:15	Lunch @ Tampa Club S
12:15-12:45	Depart for Rampello S
12:45-2:15	Dance S, C
2:25-2:40	Clap Out! S, P, C
2:40-2:50	Cooling Off and Dismissal

3. Where can I park for the awards/Clap Out?

Likely, parking will be available in the Rampello garage **on the roof**. If not, street parking will be necessary. Street parking requires payment. The city does ticket non-paid parkers.

4. Should my child bring a camera?

Students are encouraged to take pictures, but we cannot be responsible for cameras and phones that are lost. This day will provide memories with old friends that will last a lifetime. Pictures of these moments will be treasured forever.

5. What is the awards ceremony like?

The awards ceremony is held in the Rampello cafeteria. The awards ceremony is where students are recognized for a variety of achievements and improvements, they have made during the school year. Awards will be given in the form of certificates, medals, and trophies (again, this depends on our budget). Elective teachers have been invited to recognize students during this ceremony as well. Mr. Michelsen oversees this event.

6. What is a “cooling off period”?

This an exciting and busy day. The cooling-off periods provided are a chance for students to gather themselves, sit in the air conditioning and prepare for the next phase of the day.

7. Can students bring a guest to the event?

No. This is for Rampello eighth graders only. We do not make exceptions to this. Thank you for your understanding.

8. The Limo Send-Off to the Tampa Club

Please join us in the Rampello Driveway while our students load into the limousines (see the schedule above). Wave good-bye and if possible, plan to join us back at Rampello for the Slide Show and Clap Out. We have not reached our goal yet of meeting the cost for the limo. If you have not submitted your \$20 yet, please contact gabrielle.faragure@hcps.net or sherry.branham-keding@hcps.net

9. How will students get to and from the banquet? Limos!

The students will be picked up around 10:15 AM and brought back to school around 12:30 PM. There will be three limos bringing groups of students back and forth. Thank you for your contributions to make this happen!

10. Can I transport my child back to and from the banquet?

Students must travel to and from the event with the group if they wish to participate in the activities of the day.

11. What is the dress code for the banquet?

This is an event in honor of the 8th grade students, so really, students can wear anything that would be considered *within the dress code of the School District of Hillsborough County*. **However, students may NOT wear jeans or shorts to the Tampa Club.** Tampa Club does not allow this of their members, so as guests we will respect this expectation. Students will follow the dress code for this day that will be discussed and sent home. Students who do not comply with this agreement will not be allowed to attend the luncheon at the Tampa Club. Money cannot be refunded because we will have paid for that lunch. Not following the expectations does not give the right to a refund.

12. Where will the luncheon be held?

The **Tampa Club** in the Bank of America building has once again generously offered to host our luncheon. We will discuss with students how they must conduct themselves in this venue. If they are unable to meet these expectations, they will be returned to school from the event. Dress code will be strictly enforced. Attending the banquet is a *privilege, not a right*. Students returned to school for any reason will **not** receive a refund for the event.

13. Menu – Tampa Club

Students will receive a sit-down lunch that typically includes salad, chicken fingers, French fries, drink, and dessert. Students and parents will be asked about special dietary needs, and this will be communicated to the Tampa Club. Students will be given a name card with this information so that they can get the correct lunch more quickly at the club. This will be the student's and family's responsibility. Also, I can only tell the Tampa Club what has been communicated to me. Vegan and vegetarian options will be provided for those who request them.

14. What if my child has food allergies?

It is critical that you let me know about any food allergies as soon as possible so the menu can either be adjusted or a special meal can be prepared for your child. I ask students and parents to provide this information on the permission form for the luncheon trip. The info I receive is passed along to Tampa Club and acknowledged as received by them.

15. Can parents attend the luncheon?

Because of limited space at the Tampa Club, we will not be able to accommodate parents at the luncheon portion of the day – even if they offer to pay their own way. Also, since the Tampa Club has generously given the space and lunch to us at a steep discount, it would be inappropriate to ask them to provide lunch for parents as well. Parent chaperones have been identified and asked to help.

16. What is the Clap Out and can parents attend?

This year the clap out will be on the same day as the banquet. The clap out will happen on the same day as the banquet – Thursday May 25 @ 2:25 (approximately) – school lets out at 2:50. Parents will have a V.I.P. area on the bridge to watch your child make their last march around campus!

17. Will there be entertainment during the banquet?

We will have DJ Lady Shay as our dance host. She has done numerous events at Rampello (she also does the 5th grade banquet). We are having the dance and slide show portions of the event in the cafeteria. This will allow more space for our students to dance and will allow parents who are able to attend the day to access more events.

18. What if my child has debts owed to the school?

Our school administration has said that **ALL** debts to the school need to be taken care of one week *prior* to this event. This means that all textbooks and library books must be returned or paid for. Also, lunch debts must be paid as well as ancillary debts having to do with sports, band, school pictures, etc.

19. What is the plan for the last day of school?

Traditionally, the last day of school is an early release day (12:20 P.M. at Rampello). On this day middle school students will attend all classes as they will be shortened and eat lunch. Eighth graders are encouraged to wear their Invaders shirt (which they will receive May 24 or 25).