# THE HILLTOP HIGH HOMECOMING STANDARDS: FAMILY. SAFETY. TRUST.

Claflin University is a premier liberal arts university that has provided exceptional academic, cultural, and educational experiences since 1869.
At the center of everything we do is a values system that informs and guides all policies and programs. In anticipation of Homecoming, Claflin is implementing strategic measures to ensure campus safety, maintain organization, and promote responsible participant behavior. This year, we are reactivating the Hilltop High Homecoming Standards to reinforce family, respect, and safety. The primary regulations align with the university's basic conduct guidelines in the student handbook, with additional security protocols for the homecoming celebration and similar special events.

The university's commitment to excellence extends beyond academics. Our goal is to ensure a positive, secure, and uplifting experience for all attendees at campus events. These policies create a safe, enjoyable environment for students, alumni, and guests participating in the festivities. Claflin University prioritizes the well-being of the campus community during this exciting time of celebration. By upholding these standards, Claflin University continues to foster a supportive and thriving community for its students, staff, alumni, and guests.

## SAFETY & SECURITY

- The Hilltop High Homecoming Standards: Claflin University will increase law enforcement and security presence during homecoming. In addition, with increased law enforcement and security, the campus will expand campus surveillance, lighting, and controlled access points to protect the campus community.
- No Weapons: The campus enforces a strict, zero-tolerance weapons policy. The campus uses weapon-detection technology and clear bag protocols at event entry points.

*Disclaimer: Some policies and procedures, such as specific gate closures and event-specific rules, are subject to change. Please refer to official university communications for the latest homecoming guidelines.*

- Drug-free campus: The use of marijuana is strictly prohibited.
- Suspicious activity: Students and visitors are expected to report any suspicious activity to Campus Public Safety by calling (803) 535-5444.
- Clear Bags: To enhance safety and streamline entry procedures at Homecoming 2026 events, Claflin University will enforce a Clear Bag Policy at all major venues. This policy applies to students, alumni, staff, and guests.
- **Prohibited Bags:** Any non-clear bag, including Backpacks, large purses or tote bags, Camera bags, Diaper bags, and other non-clear bags.
- **Additional Notes:**
    - All bags are subject to inspection at entry points.
    - Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to allow time for security screening.
- **Security Checkpoints**: Security checkpoints will be established at all major event venues. Attendees must present valid tickets and identification, comply with bag inspection protocols, and pass through metal detectors or other screening devices.

**EVENTS, ACCESS, TAILGATING & TICKETS**

- Tickets required: For many homecoming activities, including free events, tickets are mandatory for admission. For example, tickets are required for the Presidential Gala, Basketball Games, and the Homecoming Concert.
- Student ID: Students are advised to carry their student ID to access campus and events.
- Monitored entry: Security personnel will monitor entry points to ensure compliance with university safety standards and to prevent the entry of prohibited items.

**TAILGATING**

- Tailgating will take place in designated areas (See Map). Rules will be enforced regarding alcohol consumption, setup, and cleanup in these spaces.

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- Anyone under 18, except for current Claflin students, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Anyone who is 12 and older must have a government-issued ID.
- We will have a perimeter-controlled tailgating area at Goff Avenue.
- Updated Tailgating Area (See Map)
- All Amplified Music Ends at 6 p.m. All Tailgating ends at 7 p.m.

**GENERAL PARKING**

- Parking will not be available on the main campus. Off-campus parking is first-come, first-served. Vehicles parked outside designated parking spaces, including on private property, may be towed.

**CONDUCT**

- General standards: Students and staff are expected to adhere to the university's general code of conduct, which prohibits inappropriate behavior such as harassment, substance abuse, and lewd conduct. These rules apply to both on-campus and off-campus activities.
- Dress code: All attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately and respect the campus community.

**UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATION / PANTHER ALERTS**

- **Communication:** Claflin University uses its official website and social media channels (like Facebook and Instagram) to announce specific homecoming rules, event schedules, and safety instructions for each year. Please check these official sources for the most up-to-date information.
- **Panther Alert**: Panther Alert is our official mass notification system that enables University students, faculty, and staff to receive alerts and updates as text messages on cell phones, through email, and voicemail. Participation by the University community is voluntary. It is powered by Regroup.com. No advertisements or non-university alerts will be sent. Your information is not shared with or sold to third parties.

Sign Up

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- Since this is a voluntary service, you may choose to opt-in or opt-out of the service at any time.
- You are responsible for any text messaging charges from your wireless service provider.

**We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in upholding The HILLTOP HIGH Homecoming Standards. Let's have a safe and enjoyable Homecoming Experience.**

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