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10 Tips for a Great Father Daughter Dance:

- 1) Short and sweet. Unless you are serving dinner or have some other structured activity, 2 hours is a perfect timeframe for a fun father/daughter event. Dads love 2 hour events!
- 2) Photo stations ~ Go big or stay home: Very often, we see schools try to get by with a volunteer photographer offering to do seated, portrait style photography for the event. Unless you have 3 or more photographers shooting, this will lead to a stagnant line and someone won't get to dance with their daughter as much as they were hoping to. Adding an extra photographer or a traditional photo booth is a great way to keep everyone moving around your event.
- 3) No tables, just chairs: Again, unless you are serving dinner, you don't need tables, however, chairs are always a must. Dads (and daughters) get tired from "bustin' a move" and will want to take a break, but tables lead to static groups not mingling or dancing, and instead huddling around tables for the entire event, and wasn't the idea a father/daughter DANCE?
- 4) Dance contests are AWESOME: Despite what some moms think, dads love to dance, they just need a reason. Dance contests give dads a license to bring out the fun dad that all daughters love to see. By having a contest to crown "Mr. Dance Fever," "Lord of the Dance" or "Cap'n Twinkle Toes," you will help to ignite your dancefloor right from the start. Your DJ can take care of this for you!
- 5) Go with a theme: Even if it is simple like "A Night with my Princess," it gives a great idea of how dads and daughters should be dressed, while also giving daughters a great reason to lay out their favorite Princess dress and dad to put on a tie. Too often, have we seen non-themed events and dads show up in old jeans, or worse - tacky shorts.
- 6) Lighting is Décor: Slightly lit, intimate settings are always enchanting and will help fill up your dancefloor, but the wall décor can get lost in the darkness. Using colored lighting, uplights, Gobos (patterned lighting) can really make your venue POP, and in most cases will accentuate your theme. Blue and white uplights will make your lunchroom into a winter wonderland.
- 7) Don't over prepare your music; that's the DJ's job. Any good DJ will not only take requests, but also read the crowd to make sure everyone is having a good time. An overly prepared playlist can hinder a fun event by not being flexible enough to go with the flow.
- 8) Hype it up! I am sure this one goes without saying, but when advertising and talking about your upcoming event, the more excited you are, the more excited your guests will be.
- 9) Take feedback BEFORE and AFTER your event. It is a great idea to let potential guests vote on a theme or colors for your event as it creates instant engagement and makes them want to come even more. Also, offer a social media link prior to and after the event for dads to post pictures or comment on how great the event was.
- 10) Find a sponsor(s) for door prizes. You would be amazed how easy it is to contact hardware stores like Home Depot, Lowes for great dad gift cards, or Frozen Yogurt, Starbucks, or iTunes gift cards for daughters. Small gift cards go a long way when it comes to door/raffle prizes.