

February 16, 2012

Dear Parents,

Howards Grove High School is constantly striving to maintain the best possible environment for student learning and achievement. Any condition that distracts students from learning is of serious concern. Our mission is to prepare students to be successful in their endeavors after high school. Although we feel that the majority of our students do comply with our school's dress code, when the weather gets warmer, there seems to be an increase in students coming to school dressed inappropriately. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the dress code.

**Guidelines:**

- All students are expected to dress appropriately for school. Students must maintain a neat, clean appearance at all times. Apparel should not be so tight fitting, sheer, transparent (including mesh), low cut or revealing above or below the waist to be indecent, distracting or disruptive to the school environment.
- Outerwear is to be placed in lockers upon entering the building in the morning.
- Pants/Shorts/Skirts
  - Pants should completely cover undergarments.
  - Tasteful shorts are permitted during the school hours. Dresses, skirts and shorts shall be of reasonable length (at least mid-thigh). Micro-miniskirts/shorts are not acceptable.
- Shirts/Tops
  - Tank tops that have "spaghetti" or "bikini" straps, tube tops, halter tops, strapless tops and low cut tops are not permitted if there is not another shirt with wider coverage underneath or on top. Sleeveless shirts are permitted as long as they extend to the shoulder and the straps are thick enough so that undergarments are not visible.
  - Bare midriffs are not acceptable. Shirts should cover the torso at all times.
  - Low necklines, "scoop" tops and low cut tops (that expose cleavage) are not acceptable attire. Use good judgment when considering length of neckline.
- No student shall be permitted to wear any clothing that contains pictures and or writing referring to alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, sexual references/innuendos, profanity and/or illegal drugs.
- Footwear is to be worn at all times.
- Head apparel such as: caps, beanies, hats, hoods, etc... are not permitted in the building and should be removed when entering the building for the school day.
- Students will be asked to change if clothing is deemed inappropriate. Parents will be notified of dress code violations.

**Consequences:**

**First Situation:** The student will be spoken to by a teacher/administrator. Alternative clothing will be borrowed to the student when necessary. Offending items may remain in the administrator's possession until a parent comes to claim them.

**Second and Subsequent Situation(s):** The student may be assigned an in-school suspension or detained until a parent brings an acceptable shirt or item of clothing.

Classroom teachers will be advised to check student's dress regularly.

As was noted earlier in the letter, most of our students do follow the dress code. However, we feel that there are enough students who come to school in inappropriate attire that we are asking for your help to curb this pattern and assist us in addressing this matter before the spring weather warms up. We appreciate your help and support in an effort to maintain a school environment where students are given every opportunity to learn. If you have any questions, please contact me at 565-4450.

Sincerely,

Mr. Scott Fritz – Principal  
Howards Grove High School