

Dear Jr. and Sr. High Parents,

Please read this memo carefully as the items are "points of emphasis" that will be particularly scrutinized next year. It would also be a good practice to re-read the Handbook each year as well.

1. DRESS CODE - Students are expected to be self-regulating and should **not expect** the staff to manage their compliance through warnings and reminders. Rather, students should anticipate disciplinary consequences for not complying with the dress code.

YOUNG LADIES - Blouses are expected to be modest and have an appropriate neckline – one that **does not extend lower than the width of the young lady's four fingers**, when her index finger is placed on her collarbone. Young ladies are expected to comply with the standards regardless of their "build". Cut and length details for student apparel are explained in the student handbook.

Flip-flop and flip-flop styled shoes are not permitted for school dress. Our past allowance for "dressier" flip-flop styled shoes has created a management issue for the school. **We are removing that provision and ask our young ladies to appropriately adjust their apparel choices.**

YOUNG MEN'S DRESS CODE - Shirrtails are to be tucked in when a student is **on campus** (yes, even after school at ball games). Wearing pants low or having a short shirrtail does not excuse a student from the stated expectation. Pants should not be frayed or split. Our young men are responsible to shave and to keep their hair cut within the school's specified guidelines. We expect our young men to trim their hair rather than tucking it behind their ears.

2. ATTENDANCE - Please review the school calendar now in order to avoid potential conflicts during the year.

Students in grades 7-12 are permitted 5 reasonable "arrival" tardies each semester. After the 5th tardy, **only those resulting from a doctor's visit** (a note will be required) will be excused. The penalty for **any unexcused tardy is a 50% grade reduction in all make-up AND assigned academic work.**

Unless it is an illness, always speak with Mr. Williams or Mr. Dawson regarding an absence since teachers do not have the authority to excuse student absences from school. Absences that can be planned will be unexcused if the administration does not receive sufficient prior notice of the absence. Sufficient prior notice equals the number of days of the absence plus one. The penalty for **any unexcused absence is a 50% grade reduction in all make-up AND assigned academic work.**

Jr. and Sr. High students can be denied credit for a class missed more than 10 "total" times in a semester (total includes any combination of excused & unexcused tardies or absences). For example, 4 excused absences, 2 unexcused absences, and 5 excused tardies to a single class equals 11 "total" absences. Students with more than 10 "total" absences may be required to discuss their attendance record with the school board before receiving credit for the class.

My apologies if this notice seems overly direct and unfriendly. It is a bit difficult getting everything on one page without sounding so but I hope it serves our purpose without offense. As always, if you need further clarification, I would welcome the opportunity to answer your questions.

Mr. Dawson