

As the warm weather finally arrives, so does the ongoing issue of student dress. Over the years I have spoken to faculty members, district administrators, PTA leadership, parents and students about appropriate dress for school. In the past, parents have expressed appreciation for administrative support of their parental instincts/views of what may be considered inappropriate clothing choices for a school setting. I know that some of your children try very hard to convince you that **everybody** wears this or that, and that you, the parents are being unreasonable. Hopefully, this communication will help you to have more informed, school administration supported conversations with your child about what appropriate school dress looks like.

Styles change, but clothing concerns in general have remained the same for a generation or more. The district's Code of Conduct (below) does a good job of outlining expectations for student dress as well as potential school reactions. Short shorts are one of the most common and consistent sources of concern, discussion and debate. Sometimes, parents may not immediately recognize that last year's shorts are too short this year. Other times, shorts/outfits appropriate for weekend barbecues/pools/picnics are not initially considered too revealing for school. Blue Mountain does not set inseam minimums or fingertip length type guidelines. If shorts are so short that students need to regularly pull them down so that they temporarily appear appropriate, they are too short. If the shorts are so short that the bottom of the student's rear end is exposed, they are too short. Please understand that your children may be torn between their genuine discomfort and their desire to fit in, but the coordinated message of school and home may make it easier to make the better clothing choices.

At Blue Mountain, the covering of undergarments is most recently seen with female students that wear deep cut tank tops (often team jerseys/pinnies), with a sports bra underneath. We ask that students wear shirts under these types of outer garments.

The district, and therefore Blue Mountain does not specifically prohibit spaghetti straps. However, the outer shirt should have straps at least as large as the straps of the undergarments and not expose excessive expanses of chests, backs and or bellies.

The other "grooming and appearance" addressed appear relatively self-explanatory, but you have any questions about student dress, please ask.

I will be making a series of afternoon announcements regarding appropriate dress over the next few days. As always, I appreciate your help and support with this matter and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

John Owens