

As the spring approaches and students begin to adorn more climate compatible clothing, we become very concerned with the appropriateness of the clothing. Please refer to the dress code section of the student handbook, which can be found on the RHS school website. This site can be easily reached by going to [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com) and clicking the “Schools” tab. Follow the link to the Ridge High School web site and scroll to the bottom and click on “Student Handbook.”

Dress codes are the bane of existence for school administrators, and we only ask that parents provide us with support when dealing with this issue. We do understand that the daily conflicts with your student can be exhausting and that often, the way a child is dressed when he/she leaves the house, is not the way he/she arrives to first period. This is evidenced by the steady stream of students who visit the lavatories upon entering the building to “adjust.”

The dress code is just a guide to help students and parents understand the parameters of dressing appropriately for RHS. Ultimately, if a teacher is offended by the student’s dress, they ask the student to adjust. This can be embarrassing for both the student and the teacher.

The difficulty with dress codes is that they are often defined by what can not be worn. Describing what things are by telling what they are not can be very vague. Try explaining to someone what an elephant is by telling them what it is not. Additionally, everyone does not have the same physique and, what may be appropriate for one student, may not be for another.

It comes down to this. **We may not always be able to define inappropriate dress but we know it when we see it.**

Another concern when spring arrives is students leaving campus for lunch or otherwise. Students are not allowed to leave campus for any reason during the day other than a parent confirmed early dismissal. The only other exception is through the Honors Incentive Program for seniors – a program approved by the BOE a few decades ago to keep seniors motivated through the third marking period of their senior year. A senior who qualifies will be allowed to leave during their lunch period and study hall.

Any senior who qualifies by maintaining grades of all A’s and B’s with one “forgive me” C is eligible to apply for the Honors Incentive Program at RHS. The applications for HIP will be available in the main office after the third marking period. Amongst other things the application requires that parents of each student come to school and sign the application in the presence of a school official.

After such a grueling winter I am sure that we are all looking forward to spring. It is my hope that we can weather the storms that spring brings.

Thank you in advance for support.

Francis T. Howlett Jr.