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COLUMBIA SCHOOL SYSTEM
HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 166
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March 22, 2013

Dear Parents and Students,

As I write this letter today about the Dress Code, the irony does not escape me that I have this opportunity due to the late opening for snow with spring two days away...

In any event, spring will come soon enough and with it warm weather. At the beginning of the school year the dress code was revised with the intention to create a more conservative length in student clothing; however, the timeliness and the chosen length were an issue for some families. In response to this concern, I formed a parent and teacher committee specifically to look at dress code. In this collaborative effort, we have revised the dress code in order to encourage educationally appropriate attire while still allowing students to maintain individuality. It is my hope that through the guidance of the dress code, students are able to come to school dressed appropriately and ready to learn.

Thank you and please contact me if you have any questions or concerns as you review and begin to implement the dress code.

Sincerely,

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Dress Code

The Columbia Board of Education encourages students to dress in clothing appropriate in the school environment. At Horace W. Porter School, the Student Dress Code is specific and encourages personal responsibility, health, safety and self-worth. Restrictions to student dress may be applied whenever the mode of dress in question threatens the health and safety of students or staff, impinges upon the rights of others, or causes a disruption of the learning process.

Nothing in this policy shall intrude on the constitutional or statutory rights of any student. The exercise of such rights by students must be consistent with the public purposes for which the public schools have been established.

The rules and logical consequences related to the Student Dress Code mirror those relayed in the discipline section of this handbook. The detailed Student Dress Code rules are the proactive guidelines that are set up to help the students and staff achieve the goals for a positive, safe and non-disruptive climate for learning. In order to maintain the Student Dress Code, we expect students will dress appropriately thereby ensuring an environment where everyone:

- Treats others the way they want to be treated
- Keeps everyone safe and healthy
- Takes care of personal comfort while not infringing on the comfort of others
- Behaves like a respectful member of the community

The following guidelines aid in creating a non-distracting, educational environment for all students and are thus deemed inappropriate and may not be worn in school:

- Clothing depicting logos/emblems encouraging use of drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages, or that may be considered as sexually harassing or portraying any form of violence/obscenity (including partially clad men/women)
- Clothing defined as undergarments that are visible at any time (for example, camisoles cannot be worn as shirts)
- Off-the-shoulder tops regardless of layering
- Clothing that is see-through or does not cover the entire area below the armpit
- Clothing with spaghetti-style straps or tank tops (as shirts), halter tops, or belly shirts
- Clothing exposing skin between the top and bottom pieces
- Clothing that falls shorter than mid-thigh length on all sides.

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- Clothing defined as outerwear (mittens, hats, jackets, coats, etc.) except during arrival, dismissal, outdoor recess transit, or when directed otherwise by staff
- Clothing defined as flannel lounge wear, pajamas, slippers and any clothing that resembles sleepwear
- Students may not wear any footwear that marks floors or have built-in/removal wheels (i.e. Heelys or similar wheeled shoes)

Students MAY wear shoes that expose the toes and/or heels as long as they are secure on the feet (i.e. No flip-flops), BUT must NOT have a sole/heel higher than one inch.

- Additionally, closed toed and/or heeled shoes may be required for participation in classes such as Art, Science, and PE depending on the activity. Shoes that do not follow the expectation as stated by the teacher may result in loss of participation and/or grade.

Students may not wear any accessories like:

- chains/wallet chains
- hats, caps, bandanas, or hoods (hoods can be part of the shirt, but not worn on the head in the building), unless part of a uniform necessary to participate in a school event. (Approved coverings worn as part of a student's religious practice or belief shall not be prohibited under this policy.)

Special Event Attire: Students participating in a special event are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate to that function in accordance with the school dress code.

Band/Chorus Concert Dress Code: Boys: white dress shirt, tie, black pants, and dress shoes. Girls: white blouse, black skirt/pants, and dress shoes.

This Student Dress Code also applies to all school-sponsored events.

Logical consequences provide an opportunity for students to make amends for their actions. In this case, a logical consequence to inappropriate attire is a "you broke it you fix it" approach, removing or replacing the inappropriate attire. If necessary, the student will be permitted to contact a parent/guardian requesting appropriate replacement attire. If the parent/guardian is unable to deliver the appropriate replacement attire, the student will then receive an alternate logical consequence in the form of a loss of privilege. As with all consequences, administration and staff will make every effort to be consistent and fair while remaining sensitive to situational and individual dimensions where appropriate.