

Summer 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of 8th Grade Students,

This is an important year for your child – their last as a Saint Francis of Assisi School student! There are many exciting events this year, and many opportunities for your child to demonstrate their leadership skills and model their faith and life choices for the rest of the student body.

I believe that as parents, we can all use some assistance and guidelines for navigating the year! Please know that we are here to support your role as parent, and will continue to nurture your children as children of God. We will stress modesty and purity in relationships, words and actions.

One of the areas we have been challenged in the past is in the dress of our young people at performances, on non-uniform days, and at graduation. I am writing this letter early in the year, hopefully before you go shopping for some of the ‘special occasion’ clothing. Bare shoulders, spaghetti straps and backless dresses are not appropriate for a Catholic school sponsored concert, 8th grade graduation, graduation pictures, or other school events. If you choose to purchase such attire, I would ask that you also purchase a sweater or covering for your daughter. Please be aware that short skirts are also an issue. Our young women typically do not know how to sit in such skirts, and are continually tugging at the hems. When they play an instrument and are sitting close to the floor, it is very difficult to be modest. This type of dress sends a message to the public as well as to the male classmates. I am asking you to follow “knee length” as a guideline. We also discourage any clothing that bares a midriff – whether it is short tops or low pants.

Appropriate dress up attire for our young men is pants and a dress shirt (not t-shirts, jeans or shorts!) We believe graduation and graduation pictures are special times in your child’s life, and should be acknowledged in choice of dress. I believe ties are very appropriate for both events. While we do not require them at this point, feel free to tell your sons that the principal would like to see all boys in a dress shirt and tie for graduation and graduation pictures!

I am hoping that you find these suggestions helpful, and are not offended. As a parent, I think it is sometimes easier to take the conflict out of clothing issues by blaming the choice on someone else (i.e.: the principal!). Please know that I am here to support you and your child, and feel strongly that our manner of dress does send messages. The message that we want to send is that we are created in the image and likeness of God; we recognize special occasions; we believe modesty and purity a gift; and we believe that our clothing should reflect our values.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Barb Plenge
Principal