

Dear Parents:

I have received many inquiries as to whether we will be enacting a uniform/dress code policy for the 2008-2009 school year. After much thought and prayer, I have decided that establishing this type of policy is another step toward raising our standards and the level of expectations for students. I have consulted with the Finney Parent Family Council and our leadership team and have received their overwhelming support. I have also spoken with a number of parents who are in favor of the policy. Additionally, many of the K-8 parent surveys cited a need for change. We firmly believe that taking this approach is in the best interest of all concerned.

We are confident that the advantages to implementing this policy far outweigh any disadvantages. Case studies have shown that uniforms reduce distractions, curb social pressures, promote acceptance, and create a greater sense of pride and community. It also decreases the need for administrators and teachers to constantly enforce the “appearance guidelines”, which are currently in place. Although the policy is in its preliminary stages, below is a brief outline of its core content.

Elementary School (K-5)

- Polo shirts: (long & short sleeves) embroidered with The Charles Finney School logo.
- Crewneck sweatshirts with Finney logo (optional for colder days)
- Three colors to choose from: Finney green (forest green, white, Notre Dame gold)
- Pants: Black, khaki, or navy blue—no jeans. Knee length shorts in these colors may be worn in the 1st & 4th quarters).

Middle School & High School (6-11)

- Polo shirts: (long & short sleeves) embroidered with The Charles Finney School logo.
- Pants: Jeans are allowed with no rips, tears, or fraying and must fit properly around the waist—they must not hang, as if they would fall off. Undergarments must be covered at all times. Knee length shorts are allowed during 1st & 4th quarter)

Seniors (12 grade only)

- As a senior privilege, they will be exempt from wearing the polo shirts. Seniors must follow the dress code guidelines as stated in the revised handbook. Failure to comply by the dress code will result in loss of this senior privilege.

Fridays will be designated as “dress your way day” where students will not be required to wear the uniform polo or pants. However, all general standards of proper dress will continue to be followed on Fridays. Details of the policy will be outlined in the new parent/student handbook.

As we continue to strive for excellence in all that we do at The Charles Finney School, your continued support is greatly appreciated.

In His Service,

Mike VanLeeuwen
President