



September 18, 2018

Kathryn Panek
Principal

Physical Education Dress Code

Heather Farris
Vice Principal

This school year the administrative team, along with the physical education teachers, made a decision to discontinue the PE dress code. We reached this decision after considering several factors.

Daniel Johnson
SIL

With two female PE teachers, we did not feel that it was in the best interest of our male students to be in the locker room area unsupervised. While we did NOT have a locker room incident this year, we were uncomfortable having 35-40 students in an unsupervised area.

Martin Luft
Behavior Coach/
Activity Director

We also looked at the number of instructional minutes added to each class period by being able to begin PE class right away at the bell. This change in dress code practice gives our students an additional 8-10 minutes of physical education class each day which equates to more than 720 minutes for each student throughout the school year.

Kimber Foshe
School Counselor

In addition, the administrative team looked at a number of other data points including an approximate percentage of students who dressed out on a regular basis last year, the number of middle schools in DMPS that require students to dress out and the staffing plan of that building, and then finally the overall impact on student health and wellness for students at Merrill.

Shawn Karaidos
SUCCESS
Case Manager

We appreciate your support in maintaining a safe environment AND supporting students in their overall health and wellness. We will continue to monitor this change throughout the school year and make adjustments as necessary.

Danielle Taylor
Instructional Coach/
IB Coordinator

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at kathryn.panek@dmschools.org or at (515) 242-8448.

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