

*“Look deep into the April face  
A change has clearly taken place  
Looking for the summer  
The eyes take on a certain gaze  
And leave behind the springtime days  
Looking for the summer”*  
Chris Rea

# Grey Matters

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I hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful vacation.

As we welcome the warmer weather, the school dress code often becomes a topic of discussion amongst students, teachers, and administrators. As we transition back to school from the April break, I wanted to say a few important words on this topic.

Let me begin by saying that as RJG principal (and as a parent of teenagers too!), my intention is not to stifle our students' self-expression. While student comfort and individuality is certainly the goal, it is also necessary to acknowledge that RJG, like every other school, has guidelines on how students dress. The intent is to keep students safe and focused on academics and to maintain a school climate that effectively fosters a sense of community, learning, and respect for self and others.

I want to acknowledge that when left to decide what clothes to wear to school, the majority of our students make good choices with which teachers and administrators can agree. That said, there are situations where students make choices that require administrative intervention and/or feedback. Some recent issues have prompted me to provide some guidance and ask for your help and support in passing along some important messages at home.

While we periodically talk with students who may arrive at school in T-shirts that bear inappropriate slogans or images (messages that conflict with values the schools are trying to promote), hats or inappropriate footwear, what we see most often during this warmer time of year is fashionable clothing that that may be suited to a variety of weekend activities, but unfortunately, not for school.

Specifically, while shorts and t-shirts are appropriate, clothing that exposes midriffs as well as visible lingerie, spaghetti straps, strapless shirts, halter tops, very low cut shirts and boxer shorts should not be worn to school. Straps should be at least an inch thick. “Short shorts” and “mini- skirts” also cannot be allowed. As a suggestion, students

should be able to place their arms to their sides and the skirt or shorts should meet their finger tips.

While I recognize the fashion dilemma for our young adolescents, with your assistance, it would be helpful if all students were able to identify items of clothing that may violate school guidelines. It would also be helpful if you would let your children know that should intervention at school become necessary, we will ask students to change their clothes during the school day. If your child doesn't have a change of clothing and cannot borrow from a friend, then we will have to ask your child to call home for assistance and wait in the office or counseling center until a change of clothing arrives.

I greatly appreciate your assistance with this sensitive and time consuming issue. As always, the RJG staff appreciates your involvement and support.

This Wednesday, April 29th, is the RJG 6th grade Orientation Night for parents and guardians of incoming 7th graders. Building Department Heads, RJG Assistant Principals and I will give a presentation on the academic programs offered at RJG, review the registration process, and answer questions. This is a great opportunity for parents new to RJG to learn about our school; from curricular offerings to extra-curricular activities.

On June 2nd, we will be holding our annual 6th Grade Social, where incoming 6th graders from all six elementary schools will have a chance to meet one other. While student enjoy activities and ice cream, members of the RJG staff, community representatives and I hold a panel discussion for parents regarding adolescent development and the support services available at RJG.

Please make sure to mark your calendars with the important dates below:

April 29	8th grade Picture day	Postponed
April 30 & May 1	6th grade Parents Visits to Jr. High	9:00AM - 1:00 PM
May 1	7th grade Dance	6:30-8:30PM
May 11 – 14	MCAS testing sessions	
May 12	Spring Band Concert	7:30PM
May 19	Spring Choral Concert	7:30PM
May 25	Memorial Day: NO SCHOOL	
June 2	6th Grade Social	7:00 – 8:30PM
June 12	8th Grade Graduation Dance	7:00 – 9:30PM

Have a great week.