

# The Westword

2024-2025 Staff

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## Letter to the Editor

### December 2024

Dear Editors,

While I very much appreciated Neyesha Albert's article about the WHS dress code, I wanted to call attention to the fact that the article may have relied on an outdated version of our Code of Conduct.

Two years ago, Ms. Filush and I worked very closely with Mr. Pazmino, our former Dean of Students, to address the fact that our dress code seemed to disproportionately target female students. Ms. Filush and I both strongly advocated for the removal of subjective language such as "modest" and restrictions on clothing that seemed to mainly include items worn by female students (i.e. length of skirts and shirts) from the dress code.

As a result, the dress code currently posted on the WHS website begins with the statement, "We respect the individuality of our students and their desire to express themselves through their clothing. At the same time we are a

place of learning and have developed these parameters."

While the parameters referred to still include "attire that could be construed as cultic, gang-related, promoting alcohol or drugs, depicting weapons, and/or causing disunity within the school community" all mention of specific items of clothing has been removed.

I am very proud of the work I did with Ms. Filush, Mr. Pazmino, and WHS Administration to eliminate sexism from our school's dress code and I am hopeful that *The Westword* will consider featuring these changes in a future article about some of the impactful changes made to the Code of Conduct.

Sincerely,  
**Ms. Wheeler**  
**English Department Head**

*Editor's Note: On page 7 of our previous issue, a Viewpoint story ran that criticized the dress code, citing the numerous restrictions targeting female students. However,*

*the information in the article was found to be inaccurate, as it referenced the previous dress code. We understand Ms. Wheeler's comments in support of the new dress code, and we apologize for any errors made in the article we published.*

*Below is the most recent, up-to-date Dress Code:*

Dressing or grooming in a manner as to constitute a health or safety problem or disrupt educational activities. Clothing violations include but are not limited to:

- No garments that obstruct a clear view of the face (ex. hoods, masks, etc.)
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
- Any apparel with images of alcohol, or illegal substances, or containing suggestive words or pictures (sex, drugs, gangs, alcohol)
- Pants or shorts must be worn appropriately; no exposure of undergarments
- Any mode of dress, immodest appearance, deemed inappropriate by the administration

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### Editorial Policy

*The Westword* will be guided in the publication of material by a concern for truth, human decency, and human benefit. It is published *during the school year* by The Westword staff, along with the Communications and Journalism classes. Letters to the Editor, advertising requests, comments, criticism, or suggestions are always welcome. The views expressed in Viewpoint do not necessarily represent the opinions of *The Westword*.

### Announcements

*The Westword* has no announcements.

If you have an announcement or an advertisement you would like published in the next issue, please DM on Instagram at [@thewestword](https://www.instagram.com/thewestword)

Front cover contributed by **Eugene Caibal**.  
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