**2019-2020 Dress Code Policy**

**Rationale:**
Henry County Middle School expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or any school event. Attire and grooming must permit students to participate in learning without posing a risk to the health or safety of any other students or school personnel. School staff will consistently and equitably reinforce the dress code.

**Student/Parent/Guardian Responsibility:**
Although HCMS wishes for each student to accept responsibility for following the rules set forth below, it understands and appreciates both the authority and responsibility of the parent/guardian relative to student dress. The school asks for the support of parents/guardians in the enforcement of its dress code.

**Students:**
Some articles of clothing that may be appropriate for other situations do not meet the appropriate guidelines for school. All HCMS students are responsible for complying with the dress code during school hours and school activities.

1) **Garments:**
   a) Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent (i.e. dresses, sweatpants, leggings, or shorts) and shoes.
   b) Shirts and dresses must have fabric in the front, back, and on the sides (under the arms). Shirts must be waist length and completely cover the midriff, stomach, and back.
   c) Clothing must cover all undergarments.
   d) Fabric covering breasts, torsos, genitals, and buttocks must not be see through and not have any rips or tears.
   e) Bathing/swimming wear, sleepwear (including pajamas and house slippers), blankets, etc. are not permitted.
   f) Clothing and footwear must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, and other activities where unique hazards exist.
   g) Attire that bears logos, insignia, letters or colors signifying a gang, violent actions, or weapons will not be tolerated.
   h) Attire which insinuates, makes vague reference to, or depicts insignias that are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, or that bears drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising, promotions and likeness, or that advocates prejudice against any race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion is strictly prohibited.
   i) Dog collars, wallet chains, large or metal hair picks, chains that connect one part of the body to another, or other jewelry/accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or others are prohibited.

2) **Head Coverings/Sunglasses:**
   a) Scarves (except for medical or religious reasons), curlers, bandanas, or other similar head coverings shall not be worn to class or within school buildings.
   b) Caps, hats, sweatshirt hoods, or other similar head coverings shall not be worn or carried to class unless prescribed by a physician, previously approved by the school's administration for religious reasons, or approved by the school's administration for a special school activity.
   c) Sunglasses (unless prescribed by a physician) shall not be worn on the eyes, on the top of the head, or as an accessory within school buildings.
Penalties/Sanctions:
A log will be kept to track offenses. Students who elect not to conform to the dress and grooming rules set forth by this policy will be subjected to disciplinary actions and/or sanctions as follows:

1st Offense: Staff will send the student to the front office. The student will be given the chance to call parents to bring appropriate clothing. If parents cannot be reached, the school will supply a shirt or pants for student.

Repeated offenses will be considered defiance.

The building administrator shall have the authority to rule on the appropriateness of attire if not covered specifically in this policy.