

Uniformity aims to boost academics

BY RACHEL WEINSTOCK
 Co-Editor-in-Chief

Guilford County students at 31 schools are filling their closets with more than "Back to School" gear from the local mall because of a new "Standard Mode of Dress." In other words, Cone Elementary, Bluford Elementary, Allen Middle, Aycock Middle, Dudley High, and High Point Central High, among others, are adopting school uniforms as policy.

"Research shows that students perform better when dressed in a uniform or a SMOD. This would be our main reason behind it," said High Point Central Assistant Principal James Johnson. However, research conducted at Michigan State University concluded that the effectiveness of uniforms in controlling student behavior and promoting academic performance varies from school to school; it does not have an overwhelmingly positive or negative effect.

Typically, an outfit for a male in compliance with a Standard Mode of Dress

policy consists of a tucked-in polo shirt, khaki pants, and a belt. Kiser Middle School's website states that shirts must be in white, yellow, dark green or light gray and must be free of trim and logo. Bottoms must be black, navy, khaki, or white. Logos may be no larger than a credit card, although many options are available emblazoned with school logos.

Although some students may be unhappy with the lack of creativity in their wardrobes, a uniform often reduces the amount of money spent on clothing.

"I have priced many and find them to be cheaper than 'regular' clothing. We help those who cannot afford one," said Johnson.

According to Kiser's policy, failure to adhere to SMOD guidelines leads to a student missing class and waiting for a parent to bring an appropriate outfit. Those adolescents who repeatedly rebel will be subject to disciplinary action similar in nature to that given for any other noncompliant behavior. For



High Point Central, however, students seem to accept SMOD with little resistance.

"Parents have been very supportive, and the students have complied with really no issues to speak of," said Johnson.

Despite this acceptance, many students are relieved that uniforms are not required in all Guilford County Schools.

"I'm glad we don't have to wear uniforms," said freshman Rachel Wieselquist. "They infringe upon our right to express ourselves."

Teachers, however, often waver in their opinions.

"The pros of uniforms are that they help to eliminate some of the problems associated with fashion. It would greatly reduce issues of busting kids for

Kiser Guidelines

- Shirts must remain tucked in at the waist at all times.
- Only the top two buttons on any shirt may be unbuttoned.
- Undershirts must be in SMOD colors and shirts must be shorter than outer shirtsleeves.
- Waistbands must rest no lower than one inch below the elbow with arms bent.
- Hemlines must be no shorter than two inches above the knee and no longer than 1 inch below the ankle.
- No flip flops and no open toed shoes.

inappropriate dress. Teaching colleagues at other elementary, middle, and high schools have reported some positive observations regarding behavior, and after initial cost, it could save money. However, even though I am obviously not a fashion queen, I do not like being limited in what I can wear," said biology teacher Ruth Moss.

Whirlies welcome new administrators

BY COURTNEY BROWN
 News Editor

Replacing Interim Principal John Eldridge, Kevin F. Fleming left Maryland to join the administrative staff as principal in July. Joining him as an assistant principal is Kevin S. Miller from Connecticut, who started in early September.

Adding Miller to the staff increased the number of assistant principals from three to four.

Before coming to North Carolina, Fleming served as Principal at Fallston High, a public school in Fallston,

Maryland. Miller worked for the District of New Haven, Connecticut for twenty years, where he served as principal or assistant principal for elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. Many of these schools have been low-performing schools with at-risk students. Therefore, his new position in a school that ranked in Newsweek's "Top 100 High Schools of the Nation" awards him with several new challenges.

Fleming and Miller have already exchanged new ideas and set goals for the

upcoming year. Fleming hopes to continue reaching new standards of excellence. He intends to implement some new programs, including senior projects, and master tutors.

Miller's goals complement Fleming's plans.

"It is my aspiration to support the development of a professional learning community under Principal Fleming's leadership," said Miller. "Also, to establish a school of excellence based on the following five pillars: rigor, high expectations, data-driven decision making, collaboration, and safety

for students and staff, as well as maintaining the school's outstanding traditions."

Both Fleming and Miller have already been engaging with students and faculty. What Fleming noticed first was the fun, friendly people who populate the grounds.

Miller has also noted similar qualities of his new workplace.

"I am very impressed with the students and civil culture of the South," said Miller.

The "civil culture of the south" is one of the many reasons Miller chose North Carolina as his new home.

"I chose North Carolina to give my family a better quality of life within a spiritually-based community that continues to respect the need for values," said Miller.

Miller attended the University of Connecticut for his

undergraduate degree, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He then continued his schooling by earning his master's degree in education from the University of Bridgeport, also located in Connecticut. Finally, Miller received his Administrative Certificate from Southern Connecticut State University.

Miller has other career aspirations that do not relate to his administrative position.

"It is my goal to be an author and consultant," said Miller.

As the new year begins, both Fleming and Miller will be working hard to improve upon past administrations and excelling within their own tenure. School stakeholders will wait to see if these gentlemen's efforts prove effective.

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