

## **Handbook Changes for 2015-2016**

### **CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES POLICY:**

As mentioned previously, co-op is comprised of people of diverse beliefs and backgrounds. As such, members may have different viewpoints on social, political and religious issues. Please avoid discussing controversial topics in the classroom setting. Examples of current controversial topics might include (but aren't limited to) same sex marriage, flag politics and 2016 Presidential candidates.

This policy is not meant to be censorship of freedom of speech. On the contrary, these discussions NEED to happen. It is important for people to understand what they believe and why. It is easy for discussions to become arguments and co-op's goal is to facilitate learning and fellowship in a peaceful unified environment, avoiding unnecessary strife and conflict for the Glory of God and the good of co-op. Church and home are perfect examples of where these conversations might take place. An exception to this policy could occur should co-op have a class specifically for discussion of current events. In this case, the teacher would present her curriculum to the director for review.

### **NEW DRESS CODE POLICY**

We expect everyone in the co-op to maintain the type of appearance which is conducive to the educational process and a positive Christian testimony. All Grace Co-op students will be expected to comply with appearance standards that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Clothing needs to be clean, neat, and worn and sized properly.
2. Immodest clothing is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to low-cut necklines, and slashed/torn jeans exposing skin and/or underclothing above the knee.
3. Skirts and shorts must be at least mid-thigh in length.
4. Tight spandex-type clothing, sheer lace and cropped tops are not permitted. Tights or leggings are not permitted UNLESS top garment is mid-thigh.
5. Bare midriffs or midriffs that show when arms are raised or in a bent body position are not permitted.
6. Tops that leave the shoulder bare are not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to tank tops, halter-tops, muscle shirts and spaghetti straps. Shoulder straps must be a minimum of 3 inches of solid material.
7. Sleeveless tops must fit properly on the shoulder and around the underarm opening.
8. Clothing with derogatory, terrorist, insulting, sexual, violent, or insinuating messages is not permitted.
9. Clothing with advertisements for drugs, alcohol, or tobacco are not permitted.
10. Clothing or jewelry related to gang activity is not permitted.
11. Shoes must be worn at all times. Shoes worn in the gym for PE MUST be non-marking soles.

The leadership has the authority to determine appropriate or inappropriate appearance. Anything that could be a distraction to others should be avoided.

If a student is deemed inappropriately dressed, a teacher, assistant or someone in leadership may ask them to correct the situation. If the student needs to be told again to correct their attire then they will be given an oversized garment to wear for the day or asked to go home and change clothes.