

# DAVIDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

**David Carnley**  
*Assistant Principal*

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Crestview, FL 32536

**Holly Tew**  
*Principal*



**Laura King**  
*Assistant Principal*

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June 12, 2023

Dear Families,

We hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and high spirits. We are writing to share some exciting news that we believe will positively impact our students, staff, and school community as a whole. Before the end of the school year, our School Advisory Council approved adding an additional layer to the dress code policy at DMS. Beginning this upcoming academic year, students will be required to wear an official Davidson shirt, sweatshirt, or hoodie while at school Monday through Thursday.

At Davidson, we strive to provide an environment that promotes academic excellence, character development, and a sense of belonging. The addition of spirit wear is a significant step towards achieving these goals. We firmly believe that common attire benefits our students in many ways and contributes to an enhanced educational experience.

First and foremost, our updated dress code policy helps create an inclusive and equal learning environment. By wearing the same attire, students can focus on their studies and character development, rather than their clothing choices. This removes distractions and reduces peer pressure associated with expensive or fashionable clothing brands. Furthermore, it helps every student feel accepted and valued regardless of their economic background.

Spirit shirts can also instill a sense of pride, identity, and belonging among our students. They create a sense of unity, fostering a shared sense of camaraderie and school pride. This commonality extends beyond the classroom and creates a positive atmosphere throughout the school, reinforcing our commitment to creating a close-knit community that supports and uplifts one another.

Additionally, the implementation of spirit shirts simplifies the morning routine for both students and parents. No longer will you have to spend precious time and energy negotiating outfits or dealing with the stress of choosing what to wear each day. By providing a clear and consistent dress code, we ensure that our students are dressed appropriately and ready to focus on their academic pursuits.

Moreover, research shows that common attire positively impacts behavior and discipline. When students are dressed uniformly, it becomes easier for faculty and staff to identify non-students on campus, enhancing security and safety measures. Furthermore, spirit shirts promote a sense of responsibility and professionalism among our students, preparing them for future endeavors and the expectations of the working world.

We understand that transitioning to a spirit wear policy may raise questions or concerns, and we want to address them openly. For this purpose, we held two meetings for parents in the spring. We will hold another meeting on June 27 at 6 PM in the Media Center. Our school administration will be available to provide further clarification regarding the specifics of our updated policy. We are committed to ensuring that this transition is as seamless as possible and that all parents and students feel supported throughout the process.

We would also like to announce our School Readiness Days. We will open our gym on Tuesday, July 18 from 10 AM to 7 PM and on Monday, July 31 from 1 PM to 7 PM so families can purchase spirit shirts. Keep in mind that every student will receive a free spirit shirt during the first week of school.

We are excited about the numerous benefits of our updated dress code policy. By fostering excellence, unity, and a sense of belonging, we are confident that our Panthers will thrive both academically and personally. We appreciate your cooperation and support as we embark on this journey together.

Thank you for your continued partnership in growing your students and shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Tew". The script is fluid and cursive.

Holly Tew  
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura King". The script is fluid and cursive.

Laura King  
Assistant Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Carnley". The script is fluid and cursive.

David Carnley  
Assistant Principal