Dear MS/HS Families,

The ECS School Board has approved an amendment to the dress code for students in grades 7th – 12th. 2 ½ years ago MS/HS students requested the option of a "Wednesday Chapel Dress-Up Attire" dress code, which included button down shirts with collars. It has gone quite well. Fridays have always been a casual Blue Jean Friday and a class fundraiser $1 Day, where a Christian t-shirt could also be worn.

Bringing these uniform dress code options together under "one umbrella" has been a matter of consideration by the faculty and a recommendation by administration. We are pleased to announce the following policy change for the 2017-18 school-year for 7th – 12th grade.

<u>Button down shirts with collars or Oxford styled shirts with ¼ length or long sleeves may be worn by both boys and girls, Monday through Friday.</u> Christian T-shirt Day will remain as a Friday option. However, students will no longer need to pay $1 towards their class fund. On Fridays MS/HS students may wear a distinctively Christian or ECS T-shirt.

<u>Denim blue jeans will now be allowed for all students</u>, K5-6th & 7th through High School. Previously only K5 – 6th were allowed to wear jeans. <u>Full length or capri length denim jeans (plain colors) may be worn by MS/HS students.</u> Blue jean shorts are only permitted in K5-6th. Blue jean shorts will not be permitted in 7th – 12th grade. Shorts worn will continue to conform to the current written code for MS/HS. Khaki style and colors, carpenter or cargo styled, plain colors. No more than 3" above the knee.

There are already specific restrictions within the current dress code in regards to material that pants are not to include. The School Board has made <u>specific emphasis that these restrictions remain in force</u>. Therefore, the Blue Jean pants option will be on a <u>probation period</u>. If students will not cooperate or comply (*typically our female students due to the styles and options available in girls/women attire*) and fail to appreciate the options afforded them to wear regular styled, denim, <u>non-stretch material</u>, blue jeans – then the amendment will be revoked for the entire MS/HS. School administration has full interpretive and application discretion.

This clearly means: no stretchy jeans, no leggings, no yoga pants or no pants that are made of an elastic or stretch fabric. This is especially noticeable when pants are too tight. Parents – you are the first and primary voice of authority at home. If you enforce these guidelines and policies – as it is with any classroom or school rule at ECS - there will seldom, if ever be a problem with that rule here at school. The times dress code normally becomes an issue is when students fail or refuse to cooperate or when parents fail to enforce the dress code for their own students before coming to school. The best defense is a good offense. Be proactive at home and alleviate any need for enforcement here at school. A good journalism rule to apply is . . . "When in doubt –leave it out!" Teach your young person not to press the boundaries, but to stay safely and cooperatively in bounds.

See Student Handbook page 11 for "bottoms" wording and add "denim blue jeans". The entire dress code and SHB is available on line at the school web site.

- **Bottoms** – Pants, shorts, capris and skirts must be navy blue, black or khaki (all shades; brown, tan, olive, grey etc.) Plaid is acceptable for girls only, when in a <u>uniform style</u> skirt or jumper. No hip huggers, low riders **or stretch pants**. Pants, shorts and skirts must be worn around the waist and not around the hips. Cargo and Carpenter style pants and shorts are acceptable. Shorts may not come more than 3 inches above the knee. (A helpful "rule of thumb" to check at home is the hem falls clearly below the finger tips.)

It is our hope that each student will appreciate the School Board's confidence that this new amendment will be a positive and beneficial addition to the student dress code. It is now up to our students and to you as parents.