

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our goal at Centennial High School is to maintain an opportunity for our students to have a great high school experience in a safe, appropriate, and respectful environment. We strive to uphold high expectations and high standards in all educational areas on campus – academics, athletics, and extra-curricular.

To that end, an ongoing concern that has been discussed over the past few years with our students is the actions of some students during school-sponsored dances. Over my past ten years as an administrator at Centennial High School, the administrative team has explored and implemented several different policies and procedures to clarify and enforce expectations for our students during dances. These included educating students, communicating with our Associated Student Body (ASB) class, and at one point implementing a wristband policy. In my opinion, some of the steps taken were more successful than others, but the dancing behavior continues to be a problem.

A school dance needs to be an opportunity for students to dress-up, be with friends, and enjoy the evening. It is not a time for students to dance inappropriately. Many of our students are of the opinion that the dance style is appropriate since this is what is viewed in music videos, on social media, and throughout dance clubs all across America. However, to most adults, the provocative appearance of excessive grinding and/or pelvic thrusting is inappropriate in a public high school setting. Students have been reminded that a school dance is not a club setting. Although we have made some positive strides in this area this past year, more work is needed.

Over the past few years, we have received several complaints and concerns from parents, students, and staff following our dances. The primary concerns are the style of dancing and the inappropriate sexual positions that are displayed. We have discovered that there are many students who are offended by these actions and some have shared they do not attend dances because of other students' actions. This is unacceptable as we strive for an environment that all students feel safe and welcomed to participate in school activities.

Our purpose for sending this communication is to share with you a new expectation for our students and the changes we will make beginning with our dances for the upcoming year.

The new dance policy will be as follows:

- All students interested in attending a dance during the upcoming school year will need to have a permission slip (attached) signed by the student and parent prior to attending a dance.
- We have communicated with our ASB Student Leadership group and we have agreed that if students are displaying any of the following, they will be asked to leave the dance. Therefore, students are being warned now. We expect them to adhere to the policies at the dance.

Students will be dismissed for the following reasons:

- Emulating "sex-like" movements. This includes hands on the floor, knees, and/or bending at the waist.
- Students displaying a "pelvic thrust" motion with their partner. This will be enforced for same gender dancing as well as opposite gender dancing. Students identify this action as "freak dancing", "twerking", or "yiking".
- When students are asked to leave the dance, a parent will be notified.
- Any student dismissed for dancing inappropriately, will not be allowed to attend the next dance.
- The school will be increasing the adult supervision for all dances so these expectations can be properly enforced.

It is unfortunate that we have to go to these measures to ensure an appropriate environment. However, as a public school, it is our responsibility to make sure we provide a safe and appropriate environment for ALL students. We appreciate your support in this matter and hope you will discuss these expectations with your child to explain the importance of these changes and the consequences of their actions when they do not follow this policy.

Thank you for partnering with your school to make this the best place for kids.

Sincerely,

Ben Roberts, Ed.D.
Principal

Centennial High School Dance Policy

Our goal at Centennial High School is to maintain an opportunity for our students to have a great high school experience in a safe, appropriate, and respectful environment. We strive to uphold high expectations and high standards in all educational areas on campus – academics, athletics, and extra-curricular.

A school dance needs to be an opportunity for students to dress-up, be with friends, and enjoy the evening. It is not a time for students to dance inappropriately. Many students are of the opinion that their dance style is appropriate since this is what is viewed in music videos, on social media, and throughout dance clubs all across America. However, to most adults, the provocative appearance of excessive grinding and/or pelvic thrusting is inappropriate in a public high school setting. As a result, the following policies for school dances have been established to ensure student dance styles maintain an appropriate and respectful environment.

Students will be dismissed from a dance for the following reasons:

- Emulating "sex-like" movements. This includes hands on the floor, knees, and/or bending at the waist while dancing.
- Students displaying a "pelvic thrust" motion with their partner. Students identify this action as "freak dancing", "twerking", or "yiking".
- These expectations will be enforced for same gender dancing as well as opposite gender dancing.

If a student is dismissed:

- A parent will be notified and will be expected to pick up their student from the dance immediately.
- Any student dismissed for dancing inappropriately will not be allowed to attend the next school dance.
- No refunds will be given regardless of when the student is dismissed from dance.

As a public school, it is our responsibility to make sure we provide a safe and appropriate environment for ALL students. We will be increasing the adult supervision for all dances so these expectations can be consistently enforced. Please consider this contract as your warning as you may be dismissed on a single violation to the expectations listed above.

We have read, discussed, understand, and will support the consequences which result from inappropriate dancing at all school-sponsored dances.