DRESS CODE

By Carrie Mae Hall

Morton High School, just another school with enough dress code rules to make your head spin around three times.

There will always be students that refuse to listen and let their fashion sense drive their daily apparel regardless of detentions and demeanors, so be it.

There's obvious understanding to having and maintaining a dress code. Reducing how low girls wear their shirts, how high their short venture. Basically covering up every bump and curve on the road, if ya know what I mean.

Something I've grown to realize is that dress code seems primarily for girls only. How many guys get carded for cleavage or thighs? Not many. Instead of just letting us be comfortable and covered up, staff members have to watch us like hawks and point out every rip and tear that we “showcase.”

Opposing our rebellious dressers, you have a body of students who you don't even have to worry about; they agree and abide effortlessly, not causing "distraction" throughout a fellow schooler's day.

I was one of those students for as long as I've attended school, always respectful and abiding of what and how I wore my clothes, up until I had surgery and was denied my comfortablility in the classroom.

Last December I had major reconstructive surgery on my lower abdomen because my muscles were weak and tearing apart from each other. When I was released to attend school again, naturally, I found myself comfortable in items such as yoga pants or sweatpants. Followed by a band-t or a hoodie; I dresses conservatively and comfy, as suggested by my doctor.

But when I waddled to student services before school started to request my pain meds, I was stopped by a staff member and told to speak with the dean about my attire.

After looking me over, his conclusion came to ends and I was asked to change out of my lightly fitted sweat pants because "they didn't have pockets," ruling them inappropriate to wear during school.

As a student with no previous dress code detentions tallied against me, I respectfully asked if I continue the day in what I arrived in, knowingly "abusing dress code." Without sympathy or a first time warning I was denied the option and given a detention anyways and still had to change into my PE shorts which were tight and uncomfortable.

Now, the only thing that bothered me more than the request of a clothing change was the fact that all the school staff members surrounding me were aware that I was recovering from major reconstructive surgery, and they still wouldn't cut me some slack? Come on, seriously.

I’d never assume that anyone in class was staring at me because I didn't have pockets on my sweatpants, maybe because I couldn't walk upright, but, of course, I could be wrong. Stare away!

I found this outrageous. Were people really offended by my sweatpants? My comfortablility seemed expandable to the school. I was shielded by clothing from head to toe leaving only my hands, neck, and head for viewing.

The next day I attended in yoga pants and ran into the same brick wall with the school's staff members. I refused to change this time, yesterday was miserable. This is when I had my mother call and plead my case.

The school remained reluctant to let my yoga pants slide but did on behalf of a parent’s complaint, trying to avoid out-of-school conflict. I was told, "This won't happen again, no one else can wear these and there shouldn't be an exception." I took it offensively.

Was it necessary to take dress code this far, or were people just being stingy?