

# In Support of Lanai Road Elementary School Outfit Policy



## We're all in this together!

While the debate rages about mandatory school uniforms, Lanai Road Elementary encourages your participation in our voluntary school outfit program. Here's why.

**B**ack when Lanai Road Elementary School was struggling to make a comeback, many students came from families with financial constraints. The school discussed uniforms as a way to foster the new school community we were trying to build, and to alleviate peer pressure amongst students. In addition, uniforms would provide an economic break for all families. But mandatory uniforms were not supported by the school district back then and, frankly, a uniform -- one choice for all students -- seemed too restrictive for what we wanted to accomplish. So a flexible, voluntary school outfit program was born (with a few mandatory footwear requirements set down by the school district). The new policy



allowed children personal choice within a range of acceptable outfits. Student performance, self esteem and confidence, attendance, and school spirit all increased. Morning battles over clothing choice (as reported by parents), tardiness, clothing cost, and disruptive behavior during school all decreased.

Flash forward ten years. The school outfit policy remains, but for different reasons than it was created. We are now a high performing school with serious academics (and a whole lot of fun). We want our children to see their school as a community and attend it as if it were their own business, with learning as their job. We want them to see the school outfit as what

they wear to work, much like a baseball team suits up before heading out to the field. It's a choice to participate, and we want our parents and students to make it.

We are lucky here at Lanai. Many schools choose to institute uniforms to respond to negative issues such as discipline, violence and gang problems. Lanai's reasons stem from the positive effects of an outfit policy over the last 10 years: increases in student performance, self esteem, confidence, attendance and school spirit, as well as decreases in tardiness, clothing cost and disruptive behavior. We see outfits as a positive step towards helping our children take learning seriously, treat each other kindly and be part of a larger community. Outfits place value on life skills, not clothes, for expression. Children learn how to use words, writing and interpersonal skills to show creativity, while still having the option to wear crazy socks, shoes and jackets!

**outfit** -noun : a set of usually matching or harmonious garments and accessories worn together

**uniform** -adj : not varying  
**uniform** -noun : an identifying outfit or style of dress worn by the members of a given profession or organization

**policy** -noun : a definite course of action adopted for the sake of expediency, facility, etc.

Lanai Road School Site Council  
 Lanai Road PTA  
 Friends of Lanai Booster  
 Mary Melvin, Principal



# Lanai Road Elementary School Outfit Policy

## EASY AS 1-2-3

### 1: Tops

*(Collared Shirts Preferred)*

Solid and Plain -- Any Color  
Short or Long Sleeves  
*or*  
Spirit Wear

### 2: Bottoms

Solid and Plain  
Black, Navy, Khaki or Denim

### 3: Shoes

Closed Toe  
Closed Heel  
*(No Sandals or Boots)*

### Socks, Sweaters & Jackets

Your choice!



**Wednesdays are SPIRIT WEAR Days!**  
**Fridays are FREE DRESS or THEME Days!**