



June 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On May 12th during 1st period, students were informed of a practice taking place as a result of interpretations of Title IX. Title IX states: no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. (US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights)

If students report to school administration that they identify as transgender (Transgender is “an umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.”) and request to use the segregated restroom that corresponds to their gender identity, they will be allowed to do so. For example, a boy who identifies as a girl will use the women’s restroom. This means that a girl may observe a person that dresses like a boy, or looks like a boy in fashion and/or accessories typically associated with females, in the women’s restroom.

Any student who feels uncomfortable with sharing the public restroom with a person of the opposite birth gender has the option of using a single person restroom: gender neutral restroom. There are now 3 gender neutral restrooms at MHS available to students and staff: one in the nurse’s office and two outside of the library.

It is important that students understand it is their obligation to first report to administration their identification as transgender before assuming use of the segregated restrooms. Students who make a mockery of this practice have and will be disciplined.

Information about this practice will be shared again with students at the start of the school year.

Resources:

National Association of Secondary School Principals:

<https://www.nassp.org/who-we-are/board-of-directors/position-statements/transgender-students?SS0=true>

IHSAA, Transgender Statement:

<http://www.iahsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Transgender-Guidelines.pdf>.

IGHSAU, Transgender Statement: <http://ighsau.org/2014/08/22/transgender-statement/>.

School Administrators of Iowa, School Law Conference:

[http://www.sai-iowa.org/SAI%20-%20Transgender%20Students%20Handout%20\(2_9_16\).pdf](http://www.sai-iowa.org/SAI%20-%20Transgender%20Students%20Handout%20(2_9_16).pdf)