

*The views shared in this section are opinions and not the views held by The Westword as a whole*

## The Dress Code and its targeting of female students

Does the Dress Code at Westhill too restrictive of female students? Staff Writer Neyesha Albert critiques the policy and examines its effects on the student body.

**Neyesha Albert**  
Staff Writer

Some students and teachers of Westhill may be wondering about the newly implemented dress code. A school dress code is a set of rules of accessories and clothes that students are allowed to wear.

The new school dress code has been a hot topic for many reasons like racial discrimination and sexism. Our new dress code states that attire or accessories that portray disruptive or obscene writing, encourage the use of drugs and tobacco, and see-through clothing are not allowed to be worn at school.

Although some of these codes are rightfully stressed and understandable, others seem to objectify female students. Things that we wear and parts of our bodies are seen as “distractions” or “disruptive to learning.”

The dress code states that shirts and blouses that show the abdomen, chest, breasts, or undergarments are prohibited to be worn. It also states that shorts, miniskirts, or pants that reveal the upper thigh or undergarments are prohibited. These few things are directed at girls. Having your chest, and breasts showing is considered “disruptive.”

In my opinion, the dress code is explicitly sexist and is mostly directed towards female students. Deciding what we can and cannot wear limits our options and doesn’t allow us to showcase our individu-

ality.

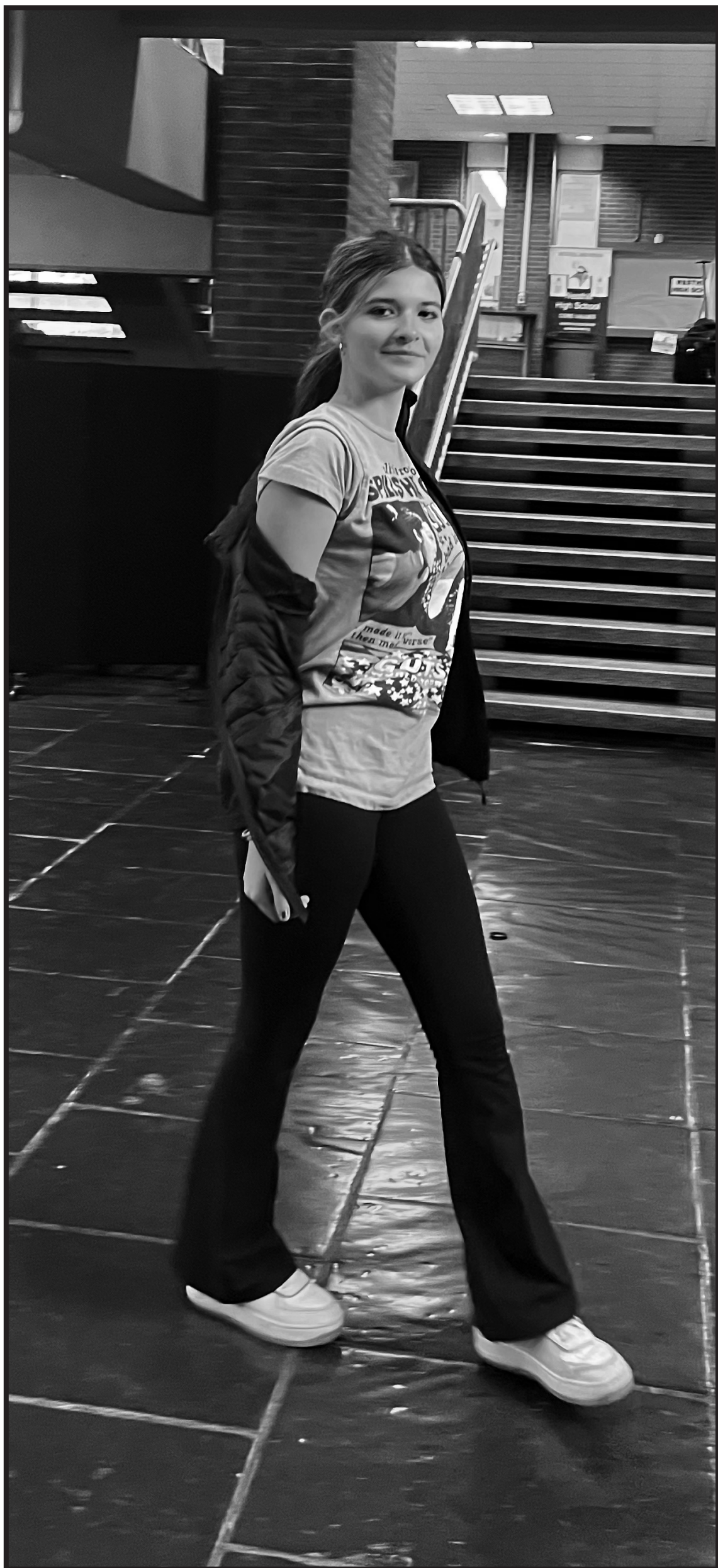
According to the website [rethinkingschools.org](http://rethinkingschools.org), “Dress codes are a stand-in for all the ways girls feel objectified, sexualized, unheard, treated as second-class citizens by adults in authority — all the sexist, racist, classist, homophobic hostilities they experience. When girls push back on dress codes they are demanding to be heard, seen, and respected.”

This quote refers to the deep-rooted problems expressed in school dress codes nationwide. It explains how these dress codes make young girls feel about themselves and their bodies. School dress codes make young girls feel shameful about certain parts of their bodies despite it being normal.

“I feel like dress code is a good thing because it makes sure kids aren’t showing too much. Such as undergarments and you can still dress well with a dress code” Emma Kirk (‘28) said. Some students may agree with this statement, as do I.

But at the same time, the school dress code restricts the option to wear certain clothes. There are so many different opinions on dress codes, whether we should keep them or not, whether it’s outdated and need updating, etc.

It is key that not only students of Westhill form their own opinions, but students nationwide should as well.



**POSE!** Greenley Lasko (AITE ‘26) poses for a picture.  
Photo by Nouha Benhakkii (‘25)