

## **Peoria High School Dress Code** **in the 1950s**

**Schools have always had regulations that have dealt with clothing, and what could be worn and not worn. Peoria had a strict dress code that lasted up until the early or mid-1970s. The dress code in Peoria was based on the religious and conservative beliefs of the small agricultural community.**

### **Code for boys:**

- **Your hair was required to be off your ears and the collar in the back.**
- **Extreme or unusual haircuts are not permitted.**
- **All students had to be clean-shaven.**
- **Young men had to wear collared shirts to school and their shirts had to be tucked in their pants.**
- **Students were not allowed to wear undershirts to school. They were referred to at the time as wife-beater shirts.**
- **Students were not allowed to wear sunglasses to school.**
- **Students could not wear pajamas to school.**
- **Shirts could not advertise alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or anything else that was illegal or controversial.**
- **In the early years, you had to wear slacks but as time went by, you could wear blue jeans as long as they didn't have holes in them. The jeans would be acceptable as long as they were patched.**

- **Students were required to wear belts with their pants.**
- **Students had to wear pants above their waist.**
- **Students had to wear shoes or tennis shoes but could not wear sandals to school.**
- **Students had to wear socks to school.**
- **Students who did not obey the above rules would be sent home to change their clothes.**

**Code for girls:**

- **Young ladies had to wear skirts with blouses or dresses to school.**
- **Dresses and skirts had to be at least knee-length or halfway up the calf. (Girls at Peoria were often asked to kneel to make sure they were of the correct length)**
- **Blouses had to be modestly cut to be acceptable.**
- **Extreme sundresses and short blouses that expose the mid-ribs or other parts of the body are not acceptable.**
- **Young ladies were not allowed to wear shorts to school.**
- **Young ladies could not wear sunglasses to school.**
- **Young ladies had to have their hair combed and displayed modestly.**
- **Young ladies had to wear shoes or tennis shoes with socks of some kind. Sandals were not acceptable to be worn at school.**