

## School Zone

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## Why don't kids take showers at school?

**J**ournalists get lots of e-mail from companies wanting articles written about their new and interesting products. But a news release sent my way recently really grabbed my attention. A company called My Kids Stink LLC was touting its QwikShower Gym Class Wipes — essentially mega-sized baby wipes that a teen can use to wipe down his whole body after gym class or sports practice. It got me thinking: When did kids stop taking showers at school? And why?

Back when I was in middle school in the late 1980s, we never showered. I remember still being in my P.E. uniform when the bell rang for the next class. We all rushed to the locker room to change. There was just no time to jump into the shower.

In high school, there was no time to shower either. So I would wipe down with a wet paper towel. In recent years, students have told me that

even if there is enough time to grab a shower after P.E., they don't. Some schools discourage showers, they've told me. Some schools outright prohibit them during the school day, kids say.

Have your kids encountered this? Do they shower at school? Please e-mail me at [dbalona@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:dbalona@orlandosentinel.com)

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