

GROOMING AND DRESS CODE

This policy shall apply to all students, Kindergarten through 12th grade. **Age and size appropriateness may be considered when applying this policy to elementary students, especially in grades K-2.** Good grooming and personal appearance are essential elements in the teaching and learning process. Therefore, it is expected that students shall dress in such a manner that will ensure health and safety, and not distract from the learning environment. Furthermore, dress and personal appearance are not to be disruptive or interfere with the educational interest and welfare of the students or the purposes of public school education.

1. Students must be neatly dressed, clean and well-groomed while at school.
2. Shoes must be worn at all times by all students.
3. Shirts, blouses, and dresses should have modest and appropriate necklines and closures. Clothing that exposes the bust line, back, or midriff area is not permitted. Halters, spaghetti straps, tank tops, or tube tops should not be worn. Transparent garments are not permitted.
4. Dresses and skirts should not be shorter than 5 inches above the middle of the kneecap.
5. Shorts should not be shorter than 17 inches in length along the outside seam beginning at the waistband or no shorter than 5 inches from the middle of the kneecap.
6. Pants must cover the pelvic girdle (hip bones). Low-riding pants or sagging will not be permitted.
7. Garments must be free of holes, rips, and tears above the knee in cases where skin is seen. Cut-off pants are not permitted.
8. When wearing leggings or jeggings, shirts must be below the buttocks and measure no shorter than 5 inches from the middle of the kneecap in the front as well.
9. Pajama bottoms, pants that are clingy or revealing, and all types of underwear are prohibited as outerwear.
10. Coats must not extend below the knee. Coats or bulky outerwear should not be worn indoors, unless otherwise directed by the principal in the event of unusually cold weather conditions.
11. Sunglasses, hats, caps, bandannas, hoodies, or any other head covering may not be worn inside the building. Consideration will be given to extenuating circumstances.
12. Facial jewelry (including tongue jewelry) is prohibited. Pierced ears and earrings are permitted.
13. Clothing or paraphernalia related to or associated with gang affiliation or activity are prohibited. Refer to: More Severe Disciplinary Action.)
14. Belongings and garments must be void of inappropriate writings, drawings, symbols and/or decals. This includes, but is not limited to, those that promote alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or illegal drugs; those that have lewd, profane, obscene or sexually suggestive statements and/or illustrations; those that contain violent or abusive statements or illustrations; those with racist implications or that portray or symbolize hate groups or extremist groups tending to stigmatize or infringe upon the rights of others; or those which otherwise create a hostile or offensive learning environment or otherwise tend to cause disruption. (Refer to: More Severe Disciplinary Action.)
15. Career technical classes or shops, physical education classes, lab classes, band and choral, and similar classes with special requirements may develop additional dress codes to promote safety for all students or to allow for mobility for specific activities.
16. With approval of the principal and superintendent, activity sponsors may establish more restrictive rules for dress and grooming as a prerequisite for membership or participation in specific co-curricular and extracurricular activities.
17. The principal or his/her designee will make the final judgment as to whether or not a student's clothing is appropriate for school wear.
18. Only mesh or transparent book bags/back packs are allowed in Middle and High Schools.

General Disciplinary Action

First Violation: The student will be removed from class and, if possible, the parents will be contacted. The student will be considered unexcused from class for whatever length of time it takes the student to conform to the dress code.