

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. It is expected that students shall dress in such a manner that will ensure health, safety, and in accordance with the school code of conduct so that their appearance does not interfere with the educational interest and welfare of **all** students.

Non-compliance with dress code will not be tolerated and will be handled accordingly by the administration. When applicable, a student's parents may be asked to bring different clothing to the school.

1. Halter tops, tops that bare the midriff, tank and see-thru tops, and tops with spaghetti straps are not permitted. **All shirts, tops, and dresses must have sleeves.** (Cap sleeves are acceptable) Students will be asked to raise their arms to determine if it is appropriate for midriff. Also, beachwear, pajama pants or tops, other sleepwear, or clothing that exposes undergarments will not be permitted.
2. Caps, hats, sunglasses, or any head coverings are not to be worn inside the buildings and will be taken up by teachers or administrators and will become property of the school until retrieved by the parent; hoods attached to any clothing cannot be worn inside the building.
3. Curlers, combs, picks, and rakes in hair are not permitted.
4. No offensive writing, symbols, slogans, or pictures are permitted. This includes alcohol advertisements, drug or tobacco references, racial, ethnic, or religious slurs or intolerance, sexual references or innuendo, promotion of violence, promotion of gangs, or discrimination.
5. Clothing (dresses, skirts, shorts, etc.) is not to be worn shorter than 5 inches above the knee. Students may be asked to kneel on the floor for measurement.
6. No wallet, chains, or any chains/jewelry that could be used as a weapon is permitted.
7. Slacking (pants low or below the hips) is not permitted. All male students must have shirt-tail tucked in. If the pants won't stay up without a belt, then a belt will be required. **Students are not required to wear belts if they are not in violation of this policy.**
8. Pierced jewelry is restricted to the ears and nose only. **Nose piercings limited to studs only. No hoops, chains, etc.)** The principal/designee may require students to remove such jewelry if it is deemed to be a potential cause for injury in certain school settings.
9. Book bags are permitted at the elementary and middle school levels **ONLY**. **Bags must be clear or mesh.** Athletic bags must be placed in designated areas determined by the coach/sponsor. If a problem develops, the principal has the right to restrict usage. **Students at Etowah High School are not permitted to carry book bags.**
10. Any apparel believed to signify gang association or membership, believed to be gang related, or in any way suggests identification or association with a gang or subversive group is prohibited. (This includes bandanas and gang colors.)
11. **Holes in clothing where skin is exposed is not permitted.**
12. When the appearance of an individual student disrupts the teaching/learning process, the principal has the authority to take disciplinary action and restrict such appearance. (This includes, but is not limited to, hair coloring, hair styles, etc.)
13. For grades K-5 flip flops are **not** to be worn. Tennis shoes are required for participation in PE classes.