

Academy of Richmond County

Rule 14

Dress and Grooming

A student shall not dress, groom, wear or use emblems, insignias, badges, or other symbols where the effect thereof is to distract unreasonably the attention of other students or otherwise to cause disruption or interference with the operation of the school. The principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any particular mode of dress, apparel, grooming, or use of emblems, insignias, badges, or other symbols result in such interference or disruption, as to violate this rule and shall give notice of such interference or disruption, and its cause, to all students by announcement or posting at the school. The Dress and Grooming policy must accommodate students whose religious beliefs are substantially burdened by this policy.

Students shall at all times adhere to the following guidelines:

A. Rules governing body cleanliness, modesty, and neatness of appearance and good grooming. Under all circumstances, the attire must conform to the county dress and grooming policy.

- **Body Piercing** - No earrings (male) or body piercing (male or female).
- **Hair** - Extreme hair color and/or styles that may cause a disruption to the learning environment or school program will not be allowed.

B. Clothes and shoes that show good taste, avoiding extreme designs and styles which may pose a safety problem, are expected.

- **Coats and Jackets** - Coats and jackets shall be the appropriate size for the wearer shall not be overly baggy so as to distract or otherwise cause disruption or interference with the operation or safe conduct of the school. Coats and jackets should only be worn, in weather appropriate for the garment and generally should be removed and not worn while the student is in the classroom or in the school building. When not being worn, the garment should be stored or hung in a manner and place reasonably determined at each school.
- **Shirts or Blouses** – Shirts and blouses, including all T-shirts, must be the appropriate size for the wearer. Unacceptable attire includes clothing that exposes the torso such as see through garments, halters, spaghetti straps, backless dresses, tube tops, tank tops (regardless of the strap size), or muscle shirts, bare midriff outfits, or shirts or blouses that are tied at, or may rise above the waist. NOTE: Sleeveless shirts that reach the outside edge of the shoulder are permissible.
- **Skirts, Shorts, Skorts, Dresses and Pants** – Skirts, shorts, skorts and pants must be fitted at the waist and must be at a minimum to the knee area in length. The school board deems miniskirts to be disruptive and they are not allowed. This includes skirts and dresses and includes any opening, such as a slit, that exposes the thigh above the knee area designation. Note: As a rule of thumb parents may use a dollar bill, held sideways, **for a measurement of no more than 2 1/2 inches from the crease at the back of the knee.** All pants, including jeans, must be of traditional style without cutouts or holes and without excessive ornamentation. They must be fitted at the waist and must not be baggy or oversized or undersized and not sagging or frayed at the bottom. Pants must not drag the floor. **Leggings are considered an accessory and are to be covered by the appropriate length skirt, dress or other garment.** NOTE: We define leggings as any tight pants without pockets or zippers. Unacceptable shorts include, but are not limited to, athletic shorts, spandex-style "bicycle" shorts, cut off jeans, cut-off sweat pants, short-shorts, running shorts, and boxer-type shorts or any see-through garment. NOTE: All hi-lo dresses or dresses with a see through outer layer must also meet the dress code requirements on all sides of the dress and the solid liner layer.
- **Belts and Straps** - Belts, if worn, must be secured at the waist and buckled. All straps must be fastened, and sashes must be tied. **Excessively large belt buckles are prohibited.**
- **Shoes** - Shoelaces should be tied. No shower shoes, beach shoes, or house slippers, or altered shoes such as shoes with wheels are allowed. At all times student safety should be considered in shoe selection.
- **Head Covers** - No hats, sweatbands, bandannas or other head covers may be carried or worn in the building.
- **Bandannas and Scarves** - No bandannas or scarves of any type will be allowed.

C. Fraternity and sorority insignias on clothing are forbidden.

D. Sunshade and/or dark glasses will not be worn inside the school building unless prescribed by a physician or another person who is professionally qualified to make such recommendations.

E. Students shall not wear clothing (shirts, caps, etc.) that will in any way promote or advertise the use of narcotics, alcoholic beverages, tobacco or stimulant drugs which are illegal for any such student to use.

F. Suggestive, vulgar, or obscene pictures and/or language on clothing are forbidden.

G. Any symbol or article of clothing that is gang related as defined in Rule 22 is prohibited.

H. "Grills" or metallic caps on the teeth are prohibited.

I. Schools that require identification badges for the students shall prescribe the manner in which the ID badge should be displayed.

Uniforms - Athletic, Jr. ROTC, and other school approved uniforms must meet the guidelines of the county dress code.