

Heritage Academy Charter School

STUDENTS

3260

Student Dress

One of the fundamental purposes of school is to provide the foundation for the creation and development of a proper attitude toward education. In order to further this purpose, it is essential to create and maintain an effective teaching and learning environment. Student attire impacts the teaching and learning environment. It can either promote a more effective educational environment, or it can disrupt the educational climate and process. Student attire that is acceptable for some social settings may not be acceptable for the educational environment of school.

Students are reminded that their appearance (clothing and grooming) significantly affects the way others respond to them. Matters of dress remain the primary responsibility of students, in consultation with their parents or legal guardians. Nevertheless, since it is the duty of the Board of Trustees to provide an educational atmosphere conducive to learning, minimizing disruptions or distractions, and to protect the health, safety, and morals of students all students will adhere to the following certain minimum standards of dress when the student is on any school premises or at any school sponsored activity, regardless of location.

In general, students are not to wear or carry items of apparel (clothing, accessories, cosmetics, tattoos, jewelry—including body piercing) which depict or allude to, by picture, symbol or word, drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, gangs, violence, sexually explicit, lewd, indecent or offensive material, or illegal acts. The wearing, using, or displaying of any gang clothing or attire (based upon the principal/designee's reasonable belief that gangs may be present in a school) jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, codes or other things which evidence membership or affiliation in any gang is prohibited on any school premises or at any school sponsored activity, regardless of location.

Head coverings are inappropriate in the school building during regular school hours, unless the principal or designee specifically makes an exception to the policy.

Unless the principal or designee indicates otherwise, students will wear footwear at all times.

Heritage Academy School Uniforms

In an effort to provide a safe and orderly environment, Heritage Academy has established a dress code requiring students to wear uniforms. Please remember that all clothing items must be consistent in style to the requirements listed below.

- Uniform clothing must be of appropriate size and meet the following guidelines:

- Only Khaki/tan or navy pants, skirts, jumpers, or skorts may be worn. Skirts and jumpers must touch the top of the knee. For skirts that do not have built-in shorts, girls must wear thick solid-color tights or leggings.
- Khaki/tan or navy shorts, two-three inches about the knee, will be allowed when the administrator determines that the weather forecast predicts the temperature will exceed 90 during the school day. Students will only be allowed to wear shorts when the administrator sends a note home notifying parents that the following day is a “shorts” day.
- Items must not be overly tight or bagging.
- For pants and skirts, no more than two pockets on the front and two pockets on the back are allowed. For shirts, not more than one pocket on the front is allowed - Pockets must not have embellishments or oversized buttons.
- No cargo pockets are allowed on any clothing items.
- All items must be hemmed (no frayed or fringed ends). No excessive flares.
- Fabric should be cotton, polyester, twill, or any blend of the listed fabrics.
- No corduroy, brushed corduroy, velvet, brushed velvet, sweat shirt material, fleece, or sweat pants will be allowed.
- Color of khaki does not include white, brown or greenish khaki.
- Traditional, solid-colored polo shirts or collared/button-down shirts in royal blue (preferred), emerald green (preferred), sunshine yellow (preferred) or white will be allowed. Other shades of blue, green and yellow will also be allowed. Solid color means no secondary color is present on the shirt (no trim or stripes.). Please choose shirts that are these specific colors.
- All items must be free from all logos or embroidery unless the item has been approved by the BOD and is embroidered or printed with the school name or log (no pins, stitchery tape, magnets allowed).
- Traditional polo shirt will have two, three or four buttons, polo collar, and must have a sleeve. Shirts must cover midriff.
- Collared/button down shirts will be required to have all buttons fastened at all times except for the top two buttons.
- Solid colored turtlenecks, tanks and long or short sleeved tees may be worn under approved polo or collared button-down shirt for warmth. No writing may show on any of these items.
- Lace camis must not hang out underneath shirt.
- Solid-color traditional crew or v-neck sweater or cardigan in white or navy blue (no writing or logos other than Heritage Academy are allowed) may be worn over polo or collared button-down shirts. No pullover hooded sweatshirts allowed.
- Socks, tights or stockings, may be worn as long as they are in solid colors.
- Shoes may be purchased anywhere, but must be conducive to any school activity; No backless or open-toed sandals/shoes will be allowed, includes clogs, flip flops, etc.

- If an item does not meet requirements, the student will be asked to change clothes. This does not apply to seasonal coats used outside.

All hoods must be removed from the head in the classroom, whether on a coat, sweatshirt, sweater (head coverings worn for religious observance will be allowed in the classroom). Heritage Academy recommends sweatshirts without hoods to avoid any problems with this part of the dress code.

- The administration has the authority to allow (but is not required) an exception to the dress code/uniform policy - i.e.: special jean days, spirit days, etc. as an incentive for complying with the Heritage Academy dress code/uniform policy.
- For grades 6-8, girls may wear light foundation or concealer; lip gloss and light eye make-up.
- The following is unacceptable:
 - Hats or head coverings (bandanas or scarves worn over entire head) (exception made for medical/religious purposes).
 - Dangling or large jewelry, including, hoop earrings, chains and belts (must not be distracting or provide potential for injury during P.E. and recess activities).
 - For grades K-5, makeup, including hair paint (students may wear lip balm or clear lip gloss).
 - Visible tattoos or body piercing, except earrings (limited to one piercing per ear).
 - On special incentive days, clothing must be modest and appropriate for school. Clothing with obscene language or references to alcohol, drugs or any criminal activity will result in a suspension from school.

The Board of Trustees urges parents and students to exercise sound judgment, based upon the standard of appropriateness for the school setting. For example, clothing exposing bare midriffs, shorts, and short skirts will not be allowed. The Superintendent, School Principal or her/his designee is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations consistent with the provisions of this policy.

Interpretation and Implementation of Policy

The building principal/designee shall use reasonable discretion in interpreting and implementing the provisions of this policy. If a conflict arises in the interpretation of this policy, the interpretation of the building principal/designee shall be final. Principals, administrators and teachers shall use reasonable discretion in enforcing this policy.

Enforcement

Teachers and administrators may deny class entrance to students dressed or otherwise adorned inappropriately until arrangements may be made for their proper attire. All time missed from classes for failure to adhere to this policy will be deemed unexcused absences. Parents or guardians will be notified each time a student is asked to leave school because of inappropriate

attire. Students who are insubordinate or refuse to change the improper attire, or who repeat dress code violations shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion, depending on all the facts and circumstances, for violating the standards of student conduct.

Temporary Exceptions

In order to allow appropriate attire for a particular educational or school activity, the building principal/designee has the authority to grant temporary exceptions to specific provisions of this policy and related regulations. An example of such an exception might be where a specially scheduled school event required a group of students to dress unusually on a particular day.

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Revised on:

Legal Reference: I.C. 33-506
 I.C. 33-512(6)