

# DRESS CODE

## CLEVELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Rationale

In order to provide a safe and secure school, strengthen the educational focus, and establish an orderly learning environment while preparing students for success in the professional workplace, students, parents and faculty at Cleveland Middle and Cleveland High Schools have established the following standards for student dress and appearance.

### General Information

Students are expected to adhere to dress code at all times while on campus during regular school hours. The school staff will correct and fixable violations with repeated violations possibly carrying disciplinary consequences. If a student arrives at school and cannot comply with the dress code, he/she will not be allowed to attend classes. The student will be isolated and a parent called to bring appropriate clothing. If there is a question regarding a questionable item, please obtain clarification from the school administration before wearing the item.

### All Apparel:

- Must be size appropriate and **free from holes, rips, tears, cuts, or frayed hems.**
- No article of clothing may be worn which implies or otherwise promotes alcohol, sex, tobacco, drugs, violence, gangs, racial or offensive language. This includes belt buckles and jewelry.
- Extraneous zippers, metal studs, or dangling cloth strips are forbidden.
- Any item bearing the logo of any school other than Cleveland Middle and/or Cleveland High School(s) is strictly forbidden. College, military or professional sports team logos are acceptable.
- Solids and patterns are permitted.
- **No undergarments should be visible at any time.**
- **No camouflage**

### Bottom Wear

- Pants must be securely fastened about the waist and made of cotton, cotton/polyester, twill or denim.
- Long enough to reach the fingertips
- For female students, any slits in skirts or dresses must not extend more than two inches from the hem.
- Slacks, shorts or skirts will be worn at or above the hip point and be able to stay up without a belt; NO undergarments are to be visible at any time.
- Belts, when worn, must be leather or fabric and must have a plain buckle.
- **Unacceptable items include (but are not limited to): gym shorts, tights or leggings (worn as pants), yoga pants, sweat pants, jogging pants, nylon, spandex, and tight stretch pants.**

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## Dresses and Skirts

- For female students, dresses or skirts are acceptable if they meet the guidelines for top/bottom wear.

## Shirts

- Shirts must have sleeves, cover the midriff area, and have a modest neckline. Any style or pattern is acceptable as long as it is modest and appropriate.
- **Unacceptable items include, but are not limited to: items with a low neckline, made of see-through material, shirts with cutouts, or jerseys unless issued by the school.**

## Shoes

- Shoes must be worn at all times. House shoes or slippers are not allowed.

## Coats/Jackets

- Lightweight jackets including sweaters, vests, sweatshirts, and anoraks are permitted.
- No long or trench coats are allowed at all.
- Coats are not permitted to be worn in the school building (exception: when entering or leaving the building or when there is a defect in the heating system).
- Coats are defined as items that are normally associated with outdoor wear and/or worn over indoor clothing for protection from outside elements.

## Accessories

- Headwear is not to be worn by any student while in the school building; this includes hats, ball caps, wool hats, beanies, bandanas, do-rags, and skull caps.
- Body piercing (except for the ear) that is visible is strictly prohibited. Spacers are permitted.
- Gauges are not permitted in ears or any other area.
- Large, long, and/or heavy chains, studded or chained accessories are prohibited including wallet or belt chains.
- Sunglasses indoors are prohibited.

## Special Situations

If a student cannot comply with the standardized dress code based on religious beliefs, disability, or by the request of a doctor, a parent or guardian may write a letter explaining the situation to the principal with a copy to the Public Information Supervisor at the Administrative Offices Building. Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis, and if the parents and student are not satisfied, an appeal may be sent to the Director of Schools.

## Additional Information

The principals, designated by the Board of Education as the educational leaders of Cleveland Middle School and Cleveland High School are generally responsible for the attitude, manners,

and conducts of the student and staff. Therefore, the principal, subject to confirmation by the Director of Schools and the Board of Education, has specific authority to determine a standard of dress and good grooming that will be compatible with a wholesome school situation. All students are expected to adhere to common practices of modesty, cleanliness, and neatness; to dress in conformity with the accepted standards of the community; and to contribute in such manner to the academic atmosphere and not to detract from it. No attempt will be made to dictate fashion styles as long as they are in keeping with the Cleveland City Schools' policies. It should be noted, however, that it is the responsibility of the student and parent to adhere to the Dress Code. The Administrators of Cleveland Middle and Cleveland High School shall have the right to appraise any current fashion or fad and determine whether or not it is appropriate for school. Fashions that the principal deems a distraction to the educational process will not be allowed. The judgement of administrators will stand.