

RIDGEDALE JR./SR. HIGH **DRESS CODE**

The new dress code for 2023-2024 has been designed with input and collaboration from all junior high and high school student council representatives, a volunteer group of Ridgedale educators, and a team of parents representing both the junior and senior high school. The code was then adopted by the Board of Education at their June 2023 meeting as part of the larger student handbook. The dress code was also created in comparison with nearly thirty schools in our region of Ohio while also taking into account past practice here at Ridgedale. It is our hope that this more consistent set of guidelines will serve our students better in the educational setting for which it was designed.

It is the policy of the Ridgedale Board of Education to recognize the rights and privileges of each student in the matters of dress and appearance to the extent that the exercise of that right does not interfere with the orderly process of education. The appearance of students should reflect good taste and personal pride. Standards for school dress should reflect favorably upon the school and community and ensure the health and safety of all students. Standards for school dress as described herein are applicable not only to school itself, but for co- and extracurricular activities and events that would take place before, during, or after school hours with the exception of Prom, Homecoming, or other activities where the administration has given permission for alterations in the Dress Code. Exceptions that may be made may include spirit week dress, fundraising days, etc.

Students who violate the dress code will be subject to the consequences as outlined in the code of conduct. Interpretation and enforcement of the dress code are under the jurisdiction of the building administration or its designee.

The dress code shall be enforced in a nondiscriminatory and uniform manner, including without regard to whether a student is transgender or gender nonconforming. As such, students shall have the right to dress in accordance with their gender identity, within the constraints of the building's dress code.

Students are expected to dress appropriately at all times. Any fashion (dress accessory or hairstyle) that disrupts the educational process or presents a safety risk will not be permitted.

Students representing Ridgedale at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements. Usually, this applies to athletic teams, cheerleaders, bands, and academic and co-/extracurricular groups, etc.

The following are expectations assembled through the school's student council, volunteer teachers, and parental input.

I. Jeans/Pants - Jeans/Pants will be permitted if they do not present holes where the top of such holes are showing skin one inch above mid-thigh (see definition of one inch above mid-thigh length at the end of the dress code policy). Frays are acceptable higher than mid-thigh but only in appropriate places on the jeans/pants. Remember that the difference between a hole and a fray is seeing skin. If skin can be seen, it's a hole; if no skin can be seen, it's a fray. Personal undergarments will not be seen through any hole.

Other Considerations Regarding Pants

A. Students shall not wear pants that, when fastened, sag or fit below the waist. The pants must fit around the waist and/or hips and be properly fastened (wear belts if needed.) **NO SAGGING PANTS.**

B. "Pajama Pants" are allowed at school.

II. Shorts - Shorts may be worn to school, and they must, minimally, extend to at least one inch above mid-thigh length or longer completely around the entire leg meaning there may not be slits up the side. If there are slits up the sides, the top of the slit must extend to at least one inch above mid-thigh length. (See definition of one inch above mid-thigh length at the end of the dress code policy). Short shorts, cut-offs, biker pants/shorts and swimming wear are not acceptable.

III. Skirts - Skirts must extend to mid-thigh length or longer (see definition of mid-thigh at the conclusion of the dress code policy) around the entirety of the body (legs). This pertains even on "dress up" days for events that occur later in that evening and to co-/extracurricular events (See the definition of mid-thigh length at the bottom of the dress code policy). Skirts may not have slits up the side unless the top of the slit does not surpass mid-thigh length.

Other Considerations for Skirts

- A. Mini-skirts are never acceptable.
- B. Students are discouraged from wearing see-through stockings under school-appropriate length skirts.
- C. If leggings or spandex are worn under the skirt, the skirt MUST still extend to mid-thigh length.

IV. Dresses - Typically, dresses are not worrisome due to length; however, so that there is consistency, any dresses must not have slits or cuts that extend upwards of mid-thigh length. (See the definition of mid-thigh length at the bottom of the dress code policy).

V. Yoga Pants/Joggers/Leggings/Jeggings/Tight Joggers, etc. - These are sweatpants and are considered appropriate for school based on contemporary fashion.

- A. If these items are worn without covering, shirts must touch the top of the waistband all the way around the body so that there is no bare midriff. Yoga Pants/Joggers/Leggings/Jeggings/Tight Joggers cannot be sheer in any way.
- B. If these items are worn underneath skirts, shorts, holes in jeans, etc., they may NOT be sheer at any point higher than an inch above mid-thigh length (for shorts and holes) and at mid-thigh length for dresses and skirts. (See the definition of mid-thigh length and one inch above mid-thigh length at the bottom of the dress code policy).
- C. If there are any cuts or slits in the material of these yoga pants/joggers/leggings/jeggings/tight joggers, the slits, cuts, holes, etc. cannot be any higher than one inch above the mid-thigh. (See the definition of mid-thigh length at the bottom of the dress code policy).
- D. It is recommended that these items of clothing, to be worn at school, should be of dark color - either black or navy. However, light-colored materials for these items may be allowed, yet, if at any time the light-colored items are deemed "sheer" or inappropriate due to anatomical reasons, the student will be asked to change into more appropriate items.

VI. Sleeves and Shoulder Coverage - Sleeves are required on ALL tops worn to school. The following exceptions may apply:

- A. Open-Shoulder blouses that have at least a two-finger width (two inches) on the shoulder with continuation of material on the arm are acceptable as long as the two-finger shoulder strap covers undergarments (two inch/two fingers).
- B. Blouses must cover both shoulders. Blouses that are cut off at the shoulder must extend to the end of the shoulder and fit closely under the arms.

Other Considerations Regarding Sleeves and Shoulder Coverage

- A. Tube Tops are NOT permitted to be worn even when the shoulders are covered by another garment.
- B. Dress straps should be two inches/two fingers in width and adhere to the guidelines in #VI, VIA, or VIB immediately above.
- C. Tank tops worn underneath outer garments do not have to have a strap of at least a two-finger width (two inches) in diameter as they must be covered by something that does.

VII. Hats - (Hoodies, Beanies, Toboggans, Stocking Caps, Animal Ears, Durags, etc. hereby referred to as "hats" or items that cover the head) - Hats are not allowed to be worn in the building. Please do not bring them to school. In the code of conduct, hats will be treated like cell phones in that if a faculty member sees one, it will be confiscated and turned into the office. Consequences for hats are spelled out in the Code of Conduct.

Other Considerations Regarding Head Wear

- A. No other head/hair coverings are allowed unless prior permission has been obtained from the administration based on medical or religious purposes.
- B. Hoodies as a sweatshirt may be worn in school; however, the hood of this garment is to remain off the student's head.
- C. Female scarves worn on the head that accompany an outfit may be worn during school.

VIII. Footwear - Footwear must be worn at all times. In the interest of safety, no cleats, rollerblades, roller skates, or skate shoes are permitted in the building.

IX. Outerwear - Outerwear clothing (jackets, coats, etc.) are to be stored in lockers. Students who find the building cold should wear sweaters, sweatshirts, or an overshirt.

Notes: Coats may not be worn during class unless the conditions are such that coats are needed as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher and/or administration.

X. Other Clothing Considerations and Requirements:

- A. Military issue uniforms or parts of uniforms may not be worn out of respect for the true heroes who wear such uniforms.
- B. Bare midriffs are NOT permitted. Skin between the pants and shirt should never be showing when standing, sitting, or walking.
- C. Undergarments must not be visible.
- D. Garments that are see-through are not acceptable.
- E. Blouses and shirts must not be cut low or have low enough necklines that make them immodest. In general, the neckline of all tops must be cut in a manner going in a straight line from armpit to armpit.
- F. Any garment worn cannot have any tobacco, alcohol, or drug logos or insinuated references to the same. This would include pins and buttons as well.
- G. Students shall not wear clothing items that contain messages or insinuations to things that are vulgar, offensive, obscene, or libelous; that denigrate others on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability; that promote alcohol, drug use, illegal substances, or violence; or that are otherwise contrary to the school's educational mission. Further, no shirts with messages that are sexually suggestive or crude in nature will be permitted.
- H. Students shall not wear clothing items that contain messages or insinuations related to gangs or gang activity.
- I. Wallet/Pocket Chains will not be permitted for the safety of others.
- J. Dog collars, leather collars, leashes, and any type of choker (not costume jewelry) or spiked neckwear is not allowed for the safety of the student and others.
- K. Jewelry must not disrupt the educational atmosphere of the building or classroom.
- L. Sunglasses or dark glasses may not be worn during the school day except under a written doctor's order.
- M. Blankets (Snuggles, etc.) are not allowed in the classrooms and should not be worn as "clothing."
- N. "Capes" and "tails" are not permitted in the classroom and should not be worn as "clothing."

XI. Grooming - The following are considerations when preparing for the school day and for extra- or co-curricular activities:

- A. Hair should be groomed and clean.
- B. The classroom is not an appropriate place for grooming hair or putting on make-up.
- C. All make-up must not disrupt the educational atmosphere of the building or classroom.

*** Any instances of the dress code that are not provided in the code above will be judged by the administration as either being appropriate or not.

*** Mid-Thigh Length (Dresses/Skirts) Definition - When in a seated position, mid-thigh length is defined as the midpoint measurement between the crease that appears at the top of the thigh to the middle of the kneecap. Clothing must reach that midpoint when in a standing position. If there is an office referral for a dress code violation based on clothing that is supposed to be mid-thigh length, this will be the official determination of mid-thigh length. Students will be responsible for the measuring with administration, administrative assistant, SRO and/or guidance supervision.

** One Inch Above Mid-Thigh (Shorts/Holes) Definition - The same measurement standard/procedure outlined above will be utilized to measure this length as well. Mid-thigh will be determined; then, one inch will be subtracted from that halfway point measurement to determine length of shorts and holes.

*** Spirit Days - The dress code may be altered for certain "spirit days," but only after a request has been made by the advisor/supervisor and permission is granted by the administration.

**** All decisions on dress code will be made by the administration and will be final in interpreting the above-mentioned guidelines. Consequences will be assigned to students not meeting the dress code as outlined.