

**August 2011**

## **Rules of Dress and Appearance**

In order to promote an orderly learning environment in our schools while preparing all students for later success in the world of work, the District School Board of Pasco County has established the following guidelines for student dress:

Students shall wear modest clothing of such style and design as shall be consistent with community standards as determined by the school Principal or designee. Refer to specific guidelines distributed by the school. Sexually implicit or explicit clothing, bikini and tank tops, and spandex clothing (kinds of clothing usually worn at beaches and while engaging in recreation activities), are not appropriate wearing apparel for school or school functions.

Students may wear shorts and skirts as long as they are of a modest length. Modest length is no more than 4" above the knee. Students' clothing shall be worn appropriately, e.g., pants shall be worn securely at the waist. No abdomen skin or underwear is to be exposed.

Blouses, shirts, and sweaters cannot dip below a line formed between the right and left armpit. Muscle shirts and tank tops are not permitted. Spaghetti straps and strapless tops are not acceptable. Tops must be long enough to clearly overlap the belt line or stay tucked in during the course of normal movement throughout the school day.

- Students shall keep their clothes, bodies, and hair clean and well groomed.
- Students shall not wear hats or head coverings on the school campus during the regular school day unless previously approved for medical or religious reasons or special school activities as determined by the principal or designee.
- Students shall wear shoes for foot protection and hygienic reasons while on school grounds or on school transportation. Slippers are not acceptable.
- Decorations, symbols, mottos, or designs imprinted or attached to the body or clothing which are offensive to good taste or the maintenance of decorum, or which advertise tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or which identify them as members of secret antisocial groups or gangs shall not be worn to school or school functions.
- Jewelry shall be worn in a way that does not present a safety or health hazard or cause a major disruption to the educational process.
- Wallet chains or dog collars shall not be permitted.
- The principal, or designee, shall determine the appropriateness of dress and appearance. The principal, or designee, will make the decision if a student's appearance meets school and community standards. The principal's decision on the appropriateness of dress is final.
- Student must be in possession of school badges during all school activities and must present the badge to school officials upon request.

**Special Note:** *A student in violation of the dress code will be required to change into appropriate clothing before returning to class. If necessary, the student will contact parents to provide the appropriate clothing. Failure to do so will result in a discipline referral. Repeated violations of the dress code will result in appropriate consequences.*