



Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School  
2409 Webber Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23224  
Fatima Smith, Principal

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August 9, 2022

Dear OGBES Families,

For the 2022-2023 SY OGBES is striving to become a uniform school. To help build a healthy and safe learning environment, we are asking that all OGBES scholars participate by wearing their uniform every day. Students who participate by wearing the school uniform will have many opportunities to earn positive behavior points and weekly prizes. There are many positive reasons for our school dress code including:

- Dress codes help to prevent and decrease bullying
- Dress codes place the focus on learning, not fashion.
- Dress codes create a sense of school pride and belonging.
- Dress codes encourage students to express their individuality through personality and academic achievements as opposed to outward appearances.
- Schools with dress codes have fewer discipline problems, because students are not distracted by others' clothing.

If families choose to wear uniforms:

Uniform tops can be solid colored, navy blue or white collared shirts. Uniform bottoms can be solid colored khaki or blue long pants, short pants, skirts, skorts, or jumpers. Hoodies are not permitted. Instead we recommend solid NAVY BLUE sweaters. We will not be placing restrictions on hair, jewelry, nails or footwear beyond the general RPS student dress code. Students will not be penalized for not wearing the school uniform. Families who want to participate in the uniform initiative but anticipate needing assistance purchasing uniform items can receive support from our Communities in School partnership as well as the school uniform closet. We will hold monthly town hall meetings for parents to provide school leaders with feedback on all things including the school uniform initiative. With increased collaboration and voice from our parent community we hope to build towards full participation in the school uniform initiative. We believe this will help us establish a safe and nurturing environment for all of our OGBES students.

With love,

Fatima Smith  
Principal