



2023-24 Student Dress Expectations

In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, the administration and staff of Dakota Hills believe it is important to establish standards for proper student dress. Our hope is that parents/guardians and students will keep this and the other provisions in these dress expectations in mind when shopping for the coming school year.

Rationale:

We want students to get the most in concepts and content from their teachers. We also want teachers to get the most out of their students. It is important to consider the classroom as a place where teachers can teach and students can learn. Just as student conduct is expected to support learning, clothing is similar.

It is possible that students may seek to wear clothing with a goal to draw attention to her/himself. If this is distracting from our mission of teaching and learning, a student will be given other clothing options at school to change.

DHMS Student Dress Code:

It is necessary that appropriate clothing be worn by students. Discretion should be used to keep the school environment conducive to learning. In the interest of maintaining a proper learning environment at Dakota Hills Middle School, ***the following articles of clothing are prohibited:***

- Clothing that reveals undergarments
- Any clothing that reveals undergarments, this includes "see-through" clothing that reveals undergarments
- Clothing, especially t-shirts and sweatshirts, advertising drug, alcohol or tobacco products or garments which convey inappropriate, demeaning, obscene, pornographic icons, profane, abusive or discriminating messages
- Pants and shorts worn below the natural waistline
- Clothing which is worn for religious or medical purposes will be considered on an individual basis

Hats and Hoods:

Students are expected to follow the direction of teachers on hats and hoods. Since teachers use and rely on facial and non-verbal expression and communication in classrooms, it is likely that a teacher will not allow hats to be worn during class. ***Students are expected to know and follow the hour-to-hour direction of any teacher or sub.***

Ear Buds:

Students are only allowed to use ear buds with teacher permission and only in a classroom. Ear buds are not allowed during passing time or lunch. Teachers need to be able to see (in view) a student's ears to know that listening to another source via ear buds is not a distraction for learning.

Other student dress/appearance requirements or considerations:

- Students are required to wear shoes at all times. Bare or stocking-feet are not permitted.
- Please be aware that because middle school students come in all shapes and sizes, what might be appropriate attire for one child may leave another child over-exposed.
- When a student's dress is found to be inappropriate, the student will be offered an opportunity to change or call a parent or guardian to attain different clothes.

Student Backpack/Bookbag/Tote Practice:

To avoid overcrowding and clutter in classrooms, students must leave their backpacks/totes in their lockers during the school day. This is a safety precaution related to the potential need for emergency exit.

Student Attendance:

The DHMS staff wish to reiterate the importance of having students attend school consistently and to arrive on time for the start of 8:20 AM classes. Students who arrive late due to oversleeping, getting a late ride, or missing the bus are unexcused absences, even if a parent writes a note. Thank you for helping to insure that your child is in class every day and on time.