



THURSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

APPEARANCE STANDARDS

GOALS

- To maintain safe learning environments which support a variety of school experiences (e.g., science labs, recess, lunch activities, physical education).
- To allow students to wear clothes of their choice, allowing for self-expression, and supporting inclusivity (e.g., religion, culture, etc.).
- To ensure a safe and productive learning environment by preventing students from wearing clothing or accessories with offensive language or images, including but not limited to hate speech, pornography, profanity, drugs, alcohol, and other illegal conduct or activities.
- To promote a positive school culture and climate by preventing students from wearing clothing or accessories which invade the rights of others, create a reasonably foreseeable risk in disrupting the educational environment, or may interfere with school operations.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Clothing that advertises, depicts, or otherwise advocates for the use of drug and alcohol products, tobacco, vaping, marijuana, controlled substances, and other illegal items.
- Violent language or images (e.g., weapons).
- Hate speech, profanity, and pornography.
- Visible undergarments (visible straps are allowed).
- Slippers.
- Any items that obscure the face or ears (except in religious observance or as personal protective equipment).
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- AirPods, headphones, earphones, etc., are only permitted when authorized by a staff member for an assignment and may not be worn during break, lunch, or passing periods.

APPEARANCE GUIDELINES

- 1 Students must wear a shirt, pants, or the equivalent (e.g., skirt, sweatpants, leggings, dress, or shorts), and shoes. Footwear must be safe and secure and not limit student participation in school activities.
- 2 Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Clothes must be worn so that breasts, nipples, stomachs, genitals, and buttocks are fully covered with opaque fabric.

ENFORCEMENT OF STANDARDS

To support effective and equitable enforcement of our appearance standards, school staff shall enforce these standards consistently and in a manner which does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any student group based on race, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body size/type.

Students who violate the appearance guidelines above or wear prohibited items will be notified of the concern objectively and individually. Students may be asked to remediate. Depending on the circumstance, the following actions may occur:

- If the student has their own alternative clothing available at school, the student will be asked to wear those items for the remainder of the school day.
- If the student does not have their own alternative clothing available at school, parents may be called and asked to provide clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.
- Repeated violations will be addressed as per Thurston's discipline policy.
- Students may choose to be provided a generic tee shirt or shorts.

OUR COMMITMENTS

- We will discreetly address dress code violations and respectfully ask for remediation.
- Dress code violations will be addressed confidentially.
- We will not measure clothing or make assumptions about a student's choice of attire.
- When possible, students will be addressed by a staff member of the same gender.