

DRESS CODE FOR GRADES 3rd – 8th Grade

Students are expected to wear the HCA uniform at all times and to dress and groom themselves in such a way as to reflect neatness, cleanliness and safety. All students should dress appropriately so as to not disrupt or interfere with the educational program or orderly operation of the school. The principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any particular mode of dress, grooming and accessories is in violation of the spirit and/or the intent of the school's dress code policy. Students and parents are expected to honor the uniform code in order that valuable school time not be spent examining student attire to determine appropriateness. Students are not permitted to change out of their uniforms during or after school unless participating in P.E. or an after school activity that requires non uniform clothing.

Students who violate the uniform code will be allowed to call home for an appropriate change of clothing after obtaining administrator approval. Otherwise, the student will be kept out of the classroom for the remainder of the school day. The student's parent will be notified of this violation. Inappropriate attire jeopardizes the instructional climate and therefore, will not be tolerated.

Guidelines for clarification are as follows:

1. Uniforms must be worn properly at all times while at HCA:

a. Students must be in complete uniform when they arrive at HCA. All shirts must be tucked into shorts, pants, or skirts, and belts must be worn with all pants and shorts with belt loops. Uniforms are expected to remain intact and appropriately worn throughout the entire day at school.

b. Students must remain in full uniform until after they leave HCA. Shirts must remain tucked in, even after school, until they leave the school campus.

c. PE uniforms must be worn during scheduled PE time (Grades 5-8). Students must stay in their school uniform if they do not have the required PE clothing.

2. Shoes:

a. Shoes must be closed-toe dress shoes in brown or black OR athletic shoes in any color. No heel higher than 1 inch is permitted on any shoe. Students may not wear ANY shoe with a wheel on the bottom. Approved shoes must be worn at all times.

b. The emphasis regarding shoes is safety – for that reason, all shoelaces must be tied properly, all buckles fastened, all straps secured or velcroed – nothing may dangle or drag from the shoe (like shoe charms). Slippers, thin-soled shoes, and flip-flops are not permitted.

3. Pants or Shorts:

a. Pants or shorts must be khaki or black. All pants and shorts must have belt loops, and a belt must be worn through all the loops and fastened appropriately. Unhemmed pants or shorts are not permitted. Tight or revealing pants and cargo pants are not acceptable. Pant material may not be denim, suede, or corduroy – it must be 100% cotton or a cotton/polyester blend. Shorts must be no more than 3 inches above the knee - NO exceptions.

b. Leggings can be worn under a skirt, short, or skort but must be black or white.

b. Pants or shorts must be worn properly at the waist and not sag below the top of the hips.

Pants or shorts may not be rolled up or folded up. Pants or shorts must not fit too snugly. Students wearing the top of their pants or shorts below their buttocks will be given a Disciplinary Referral for improper exposure .

c. Athletic shorts are not permitted excepted during PE.

4. Top Options:

a. Polo knit shirts are white, gold, or royal blue and come in a short or long sleeve style. You may wear a white, gold, or royal blue long sleeve t-shirts under the short sleeve polo during colder months.

b. Students may purchase a jacket or a hooded, pullover, sweatshirt, as long as it is white, gold, or royal blue.

c. Vests, sweaters, and jackets that are to be worn in the classrooms must be solid white, gold, or royal blue. The outerwear cannot be worn alone with a plain shirt underneath, and it may not be worn (tied) around the waist.

d. During colder months, students may wear any heavy coat to school regardless of color. They will need to leave it in their lockers or cubbies during the day, however, if it is white, gold, or royal blue it may be worn inside the school.

e. Oxford shirts (button up shirts with collars) may be worn if white, gold, or royal blue.

6. Accessories:

a. Belts must be leather, braided leather, or fabric in solid colors. Grommets, brads, or excessive ornamentation on the belt is not permitted. Belts are required to be worn properly with all pants or shorts – this means that the belt must go through all the belt loops on the pants, be properly fastened or buckled, and the “end” of the belt must not be allowed to hang down (it must also go through the loops if there is excess). The belt must also be tightened enough to prohibit the student’s pants or shorts from sagging below the hips.

b. Socks must be matching pairs.

c. Grades K-2 only: Tights or leggings may be worn. Fishnet, leg warmers, or other patterned stockings or hose are not permitted.

7. Miscellaneous Guidelines:

a. Clothing should be neat and clean.

b. Clothing may not be worn inside out or backwards.

c. Undergarments must not be exposed.

d. Hair, face or body paint and tattoos are inappropriate for school and not permitted.

e. Athletic outfits are not permitted in the school building, except in PE classes and dress down days for sports themed activities.

f. Cosmetics and/or make-up should be age and school appropriate and not attract undue attention.

g. Clothing with rips, tears, holes or frayed edges is considered inappropriate for school.

h. Jewelry and accessories should be appropriate for school and not attract undue attention or pose a safety risk. Piercings other than earrings are prohibited. Earrings, for safety reasons, are not to exceed the size of a quarter. Gold/silver mouth pieces, or "Grillz," are not permitted.

i. Hats, caps, curlers, headscarves, bandanas, doo-rags, pics, combs, sweatbands, chains, sunglasses, tennis skirts, gloves, arm warmers and coats are not to be worn during school hours.

k. Exemptions may be granted for religious purposes if approved in advance.

FOR DRESS DOWN DAYS ONLY:

l. Clothing that is revealing, such as short mini-skirts, short-shorts, tank tops, loosely fitting, low-cut blouses or halter tops, mesh shirts, or shirts exposing the midriff are not to be worn to school. Shirt sleeves must be at least four adult fingers wide. Shirts must be worn buttoned up to second from top.

m. All t-shirts must be in good taste (no suggestive wording or illustrations or advertisements for items which are illegal for middle school students - i.e., alcohol and tobacco products, etc.). Administration-approved school spirit t-shirts may be worn in lieu of school uniform t-shirt. Students should wear crew neck t-shirts or similar during PE classes.