



2022-2023

River Ridge Middle School

DRESS CODE

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:

- ✓ The principal, or designee, shall determine the appropriateness of dress and appearance in accordance with the guidelines distributed by the school, school board policy and guidelines contained herein. 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 as long as it does not contradict official district policy listed herein or elsewhere.
- ✓ These guidelines are in effect while on any District School Board of Pasco County school or campus, at any school function or on any school-sponsored transportation.
- ✓ Students are prohibited from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the learning environment (F.S. 1006.07).

These guidelines are in effect while on any District School Board of Pasco County school or campus, at any school function or on any school-sponsored transportation.

- Students must wear clothing that has fabric in the front, back and on the sides (under the arms) and shoes.
- Shirts and dresses must have fabric in the front, back and on the sides (under the arms).
- Shirts must have straps.
- Clothing must cover undergarments (this includes straps and waistbands).
- Fabric covering chests, genitals and buttocks must be opaque.
- Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, wood shop and other activities where unique hazards exist.
- Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.

The following types of clothing, items, accessories and apparel are considered inappropriate for the school environment:

- Any clothing that exposes underwear, body parts and/or skin in an indecent or vulgar manner.
- Any clothing that substantially disrupts the school environment or causes safety concerns.
- Any clothing that depicts profanity, drugs, violent images or vulgarity in any form.
- Any clothing that depicts sexually implicit or explicit images.
- Any clothing that depicts gang-related images, indicates gang affiliation or antisocial group affiliation.
- Wallet chains, spiked jewelry, dog collars or similar items.
- Slippers or similar shoes.
- Pajamas or costumes (unless approved by school administration for special events, etc.).
- Hats, bandanas, or head coverings (unless preapproved administratively for medical, religious reasons and/or for special school activities)

Wearing clothing or accessories that depict a firearm or weapon or express an opinion regarding a right guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution is not grounds for disciplinary action or referral to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system under this section or F.S. 1006.13.

Regulations Regarding the Wearing of Items and/or Clothing that Conceal Identity

- A student's identity must be readily recognizable by school staff at all times, during the school-day, or when the student is engaged in a school-sponsored activity.
- No items or clothing, or any combinations of such, may be worn in a manner that conceals the wearer's face. Face coverings such as ski masks, gas masks, Halloween masks, costume masks, ninja masks, pantyhose, full face masks, hoods (including hoods from sweatshirts or jackets commonly referred to as "hoodies") or other face coverings that obstruct a wearer's vision or face or identity are not allowed absent a legally protected right that has been approved in writing by the school's Principal or the District's Equity Officer.
- Students may utilize an appropriate face-covering (such as a medical mask, surgical mask, scarf, bandanna, fishing buff, and other items made of a suitable and safe material that will cover the wearer's nose and mouth and prevent or reduce the release of respiratory droplets from the wearer's mouth or nose) for the purposes of health-related concerns.
- Student's must comply with the directive of all school staff members to remove any and all items or clothing set forth above so that the student's identity can be readily revealed and recognized. This would include the temporary removal of an appropriate face covering being utilized for health concerns so that a student's identity can be confirmed.
- During times of inclement weather, a Principal, may modify or suspend application of these provisions when doing so is in the best interest of the student body's health, safety, and welfare.
- Failure to comply with the above policy and provisions may result in disciplinary action as detailed herein and/or elsewhere in district policy.

Students in violation of the dress code:

- Will be required to change into appropriate clothing, contacting the parent/guardian as needed.
- Students may be required to remain in the front office until the above condition is met per principal discretion.
- May receive a discipline referral and receive consequences as appropriate for repeated breaches of the policy.

First Offense: The student shall be given a verbal warning and the school principal or designee shall call the student's parent or guardian.

Second Offense: The student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of time not to exceed 5 days and the school principal or designee shall meet with the student's parent or guardian.

Third or Repeated Offense: The student shall receive an in-school suspension for a period not to exceed 3 days, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 30 days, and the school principal or designee shall call the student's parent or guardian and send the parent or guardian a written letter regarding the student's in-school suspension and ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities. (F.S. 1006.07, 1003.01)