

Dress Code Revision 2022

FIRST . . .

Woods students spoke up and shared their concerns about the dress code with the faculty and admin team.

THEN . . .

The High School Student Council conducted a survey to get more data on students' thoughts and attitudes about the dress code. They shared their findings with the admin team and WCS Board.

The most common complaints:

- the language in the code is vague, ambiguous, and open to subjective interpretation,
- the code tends to limit female bodies more than male bodies,
- enforcement is inconsistent,
- the code “sexualizes” bodies, particularly female bodies,
- it leads to body shaming.

THEN . . .

The Principal took these concerns to the WCS Board. The Board studied the issue, surveyed the faculty, then revised the code to make a dress code that was more clear, fair, and affirming.

This new dress code goes into effect in January.

Current Dress Code

Woods Charter School strives to create an environment that allows for high quality academic and character education to be at the center of our experience. Clothing and accessories should adhere to the standards below.

Woods Charter School has determined that within the context of our K-12 school, the following clothing does not meet community standards:

- Articles that include language or images which are profane, sexually suggestive, drug-or tobacco-oriented, and/or suggest or support violence
- Articles that demean any race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, physical disability, or intellectual ability
- Clothing that exposes bare midriffs
- Clothing that exposes underwear and/or buttocks
- Extremely tight, revealing, and/or low-cut clothing
- Sunglasses, hats, and hoods inside the school building. (This prohibition shall not apply to any individual student when the article is necessary for medical or religious reasons.)

Woods Charter School has determined that within the context of our K-12 school, the following clothing is in compliance:

- Sunglasses & hats outside the school building athletic
- Athletic shoes are required for physical education classes and may be either worn to school or worn only for P.E. class. For purposes of this section, the Elementary Walking Program shall be considered a P.E. class.

New Dress Code (takes effect January 2, 2023)

The goal of the Woods Charter School dress code is to create a safe and affirming environment for all students and faculty.

As a general guideline, students must wear clothing which includes:

- a shirt (defined as having fabric in the front, back, and sides under the arms), **and**
- pants or skirt (or the equivalent), **and**
- shoes.

Certain body parts, including genitals, buttocks, and breasts must be covered with opaque fabric for all students at all times while at school or during school sponsored events or activities.

Students are prohibited from wearing:

- articles with offensive images or language that:
 - denote, suggest, display, or reference alcohol, drugs, or related paraphernalia or other illegal conduct or activities that reasonably can be construed as racist, lewd, vulgar, obscene, or violent.
 - demean any race, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, physical disability, or intellectual ability.
- clothing that reveals visible undergarments (excluding underwear waistbands or bra straps worn underneath clothing).

Inside the school building, headwear and sunglasses that obscure the face may not be worn unless for religious observance or medical reasons.

Athletic shoes are required for physical education classes and may be either worn to school or worn only for P.E. class or the Elementary Walking Program.

To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a manner that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

For potentially sensitive topics, discussions with students regarding a potential dress code violation shall occur with another adult staff member present and not in front of other students.