

Howard Middle School

Dress Code 2016–2017

Follow the P.A.C.K.

Portray a positive attitude
Accept Responsibility
Choose to be respectful
KeeP learning first!

Howard Middle School's dress code is designed to reduce the likelihood of disruption and to maintain an academic focus in the classroom and on campus.

Instruction is interrupted when a student has to be seen by an administrator because of inappropriate dress. **If in the judgment of the administration or staff, a student is dressed inappropriately, the student will be required to change clothing. Students who repeatedly violate the school dress code SHALL be required to wear a school uniform (****see below).**

The Howard administration and staff would like the cooperation of the students and parents in reviewing the student's dress to ensure it meets the following dress code guidelines before the student comes to school.

Any student dress/appearance not specifically stated which causes a disruption in the learning environment will not be permitted. It is essential that students respect the learning environment by being appropriately dressed for school. The purpose of the student dress code is not to inhibit any person's taste in attire, but rather to better facilitate the process of education through reasonable guidelines of "dress" instilling dignity and pride.

1. **Headgear** - Headgear is prohibited to be worn in the building. This includes, but is not limited to, caps, hats, hoods, bandanas, wave caps, sweatbands, or any other head covering. Students may wear headbands which are school colors (white, black, gray, or burgundy) *Exceptions for religious or medical reasons.
2. **Shirts/Blouses/Tops/T-shirts**- Blouses/shirts should be constructed so that the tops of the shoulders are covered (no halter tops, strapless tops, spaghetti straps, or bare shoulder tops of any type will be allowed). Blouses/shirts that expose any portion of the waist, hips or midriff are not allowed. (If *you* raise your arms and the stomach shows, the top is not acceptable.) Other blouses/shirts that are not appropriate for school include, but are not limited to, low-cut, see-through, backless, or tube tops. Rips or holes are not allowed in shirts/tops. Boys are not permitted to wear sleeveless shirts.
3. **Shorts/Skirts/Pants**- All shorts and skirts must be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee. Slits in skirts cannot be more than 4 inches above the knee. Waistline of shorts/skirts/pants must be *on* or above the hips with no underwear showing. There should be **no** rips or holes in pants or shorts. No "pajama" bottoms or slippers. Students wearing leggings or tights will still be held to the same requirements. Leggings and tights are considered accessories and should not be worn as outer-garments/pants.

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4. **Shoes** - Health regulations and safety factors require that footwear be worn at all times at school. All shoes must have closed toes and heels. Tennis shoes that are properly sized with secured shoe laces.
5. No student clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, illegal gang affiliation or other illegal activity expressed or implied. No student clothing or accessories shall be disruptive or have caused past disruption to the school environment.
6. **Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons are not allowed to be at school.** This includes, but is not limited to, wallet chains, jewelry such as spiked rings, spiked bracelets, two or three finger rings that are joined and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist. Sharp objects that could pose a danger, such as spikes or safety pins, are not allowed on clothing or book bags.
7. Earbuds, headphones, and Bluetooth devices may not be used or worn around the neck anywhere in the building during school hours.
8. Book bags should be mesh or clear.

These rules are subject to updates as additional wearing apparel becomes identified as gang affiliated or disruptive. Exceptions to Howard Middle School's dress code may be made by the Principal or his/her designee for specific reasons. An administrator will make the final determination as to the appropriateness.

STUDENT DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

1st Offense - Written Warning/Teacher contacts parent/May be removed from the learning environment if clothing cannot be corrected to meet dress code.

2nd Offense - Teacher/Student Conference/Teacher contacts parent/ May be removed from the learning environment if clothing cannot be corrected to meet dress code.

3rd Offense - Teacher/Student Conference/Teacher contacts parent/ May be removed from the learning environment if clothing cannot be corrected to meet dress code. Teacher completes a referral to the counselor.

4th Offense - Teacher contacts parent and completes office referral; Student may receive up to 2 days ISS and **PLACED IN A SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR THE DURATION OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

5th Offense & Subsequent - Teacher contacts parents and completes an office referral; if the dress code violation issue becomes a disruption or repetitious problem, subsequent consequences may escalate to in-school suspension of 3-5 days per occurrence. Repetitive dress code violations become a defiance issue, and may receive punishments beyond ISS including: required parent meetings, OSS, and referrals to the alternative school.

******DRESS CODE FOR STUDENTS REQUIRED TO BE IN A SCHOOL UNIFORM DUE TO REPEATED DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS**

PANTS, SHORTS, OR SKIRTS (NO JEANS):

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- Plain khaki, black or navy DRESS pants
 - Must be of appropriate size, not flare legged, worn as designed and of ankle length. Pants designed to be worn below the top of the hip bone are not allowed.
- Plain khaki, black or navy skirts or shorts.
 - Skirts or shorts must be no shorter than (4) inches above the knee.
 - Skirts cannot have any slits or openings.
 - Jean shorts or cut off shorts are not allowed.

SHIRTS:

- Plain white or school color shirts.
- Shirts can be long sleeve or short sleeve.
- All shirts must be of appropriate size.

HOWARD SPIRIT WEAR:

- Howard Husky apparel may be worn at any time.