



# Washington Academic Middle School

California School to Watch

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## Washington Academic Middle School Dress Code 2010-2011

### STUDENTS DRESS AND GROOMING (K-12) (Board Policy 5132)

The Governing Board expects all students Grades K-12 to attend school attired and groomed in a manner that is conducive to a safe, secure and positive learning environment. Therefore, the Board prohibits dress and grooming of students which obstructs, inhibits or detracts from the instructional program or creates safety concerns.

Nothing stated in the following regulation is to be interpreted to limit the responsibility and obligation of all staff to make and enforce regulations in the interests of safety demonstrably involved in any specific teaching situation. The following regulations will be enforced at all school sites for K-12 students. Students whose parent/guardian file an “Application for Exemption from School Uniform Policy, Grades K-8” exempting students in grades K-8 from the school uniform policy, must comply with AR 5132 C-E.

### DRESS CODE K-12

1. **GENERAL STATEMENT:** The guidance of students in many areas is a shared responsibility between the home and school. The following dress code regulations are to:
  - A. Set limits within the guiding principle of “moderation in all things”.
  - B. Encourage that mode of dress and grooming which is conducive to establishing a climate for teaching and learning.
  - C. Promote a safe and secure educational environment.
2. **BASIC PHILOSOPHY:** All students are to attend school in a manner which is clean and not hazardous to the health and safety of themselves and of others and does not detract from the educational process.
3. **PERSONAL DRESS:** Modesty and the avoidance of distracting influences are keys to an appropriate appearance. Any apparel, hair style, cosmetic or jewelry, even if not specifically mentioned below, which creates a safety concern, draws undue attention to the wearer or tends to detract from the educational process is prohibited.
  - A. Dresses, skirts, slits in skirts, split skirts or like garments should be no shorter than 6” (six inches) above the knee.
  - B. Pants and shorts are to be worn at the natural waistline and conform to acceptable standards of appearance (no more than one size too large or too small.) If a belt is worn, it must not overlap the first belt loop by more than 2” (two inches). Belts must not be more than one size too large or one size too small. Pants with an extra long crotch, extending beyond mid-thigh, are not permitted. The bottom of the pant leg may not be intentionally frayed or drag on the ground. Pants must be hemmed and not stapled, pinned, or taped.
  - C. All students can wear shorts year-round. They must fit and be worn at or above the natural waistline (no more than one size too large or too small.) Shorts should be no shorter than 6” (six inches) above the knee. Shorts must be hemmed not frayed. Lycra/Spandex shorts are not acceptable.
  - D. Crude or vulgar printing, slander, slogans, symbols, designs, jewelry or pictures depicting tobacco, drugs, alcoholic beverages, illegal activities, or sexual suggestions are specifically prohibited. Any clothing reflecting gang affiliation is prohibited. Military, paramilitary, or camouflage attire may be worn only by students enrolled in the ROTC/NJROTC programs.
  - E. Underwear-type sleeveless shirts (tank tops for boys), tube tops, halter tops, bare midriff or radically altered clothing are not acceptable. Straps on dresses and tops must be a minimum of 2” (two inches) in width. Any see-through clothing or clothes that expose the body in a sexually suggestive manner are not acceptable. Clothing that is ripped and shows skin through any part is not acceptable. Jeans that are ripped, but have a backing not of a skin tone are permitted.  
**WAMS does not allow solid colored T-Shirts of any color, including white to be worn. T-shirts with screen printing or embroidering, multi-colored shirts, or collared shirts are acceptable. In addition, T-shirts must be worn, no T-shirts will be allowed to be placed over the shoulders or placed on backpacks.**
  - F. Jackets or other apparel of professional, college or university teams with or without logos are unacceptable. (Note: Apparel with Bulldog insignia of any kind is not acceptable with the exception of the Wilson Elementary School Mascot.
  - G. All students must wear shoes at all times. No hard-toed or steel-toed shoes/boots will be allowed. No high top, laced up, combat, or military style boots will be allowed. Shoes must be laced and tied or strapped at all times. Thongs, shoes or sandals without heel straps are inappropriate at elementary school sites due to safety concerns.
  - H. Sunglasses are not to be worn in classroom or office.

- I. Headwear (hats, caps, bandannas, hairnets, etc.) **will not** be allowed during school hours. The only **exceptions** are:

- 1) For documented medical or religious reasons
- 2) Articles of sun protective clothing, including, but not limited to, hats will be allowed for outdoor use only. School-sanctioned hats include the following: Full brim, solid color, made of canvas, cotton or straw. **NO LETTERING OR LOGOS ON HATS OR HATBANDS**

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**GROOMING:** It is expected that personal cleanliness will be observed and that hairstyles, beards, and mustaches will be neatly maintained. Moderation in make-up and hairstyles is required.

Hair features that cause undue attention or are gang-related are not acceptable. This includes, but is not limited to: unusual designs, unnatural colors, symbols, razor cuts in hair and eyebrows, messages, and **Mohawks. Faux-Hawks** of extreme nature are not permitted. This include faux-hawks where the pupil's head is shaved on the side and the scalp is visible and any faux-hawk that rises above the pupil's scalp by more than 2 inches. Grooming aids, such as brushes, combs, and make-up are not to be used in the classroom. Nail polish and polish remover is not allowed. Piercing is acceptable in the ears only. Wearing excessive amounts of cologne, perfume, or other fragrances is not allowed.

5. **SAFETY:** Nothing stated here is to be interpreted to limit the responsibility and obligation of certificated staff to make and enforce regulations concerning control of hair, clothing, or jewelry in the interest of safety demonstrably involved in any specific teaching situation.

All of the above must conform to acceptable standards of appearance.

6. **ENFORCEMENT:** Enforcement is the responsibility of all staff. The dress code will be distributed to parents in writing through either first day packets or school student handbooks. Whenever a student attends school with inappropriate dress, the classroom teacher will explain the violation and refer the student to the site administration.

- A. First Referral – The student will receive a documented warning, he/she will be expected to change into appropriate clothing, the parents will be notified, and the dress code will be reviewed with the student.
- B. Second Referral – In addition to the above, the student will also receive one (1) lunch detention.
- C. Third Referral – In addition to A, the student will receive three (3) five-day (5) lunch detentions, and both parent/guardian and student will sign a contract.
- D. Fourth Referral – In addition to A, the student will receive three (3) five-day (5) lunch detentions, and one (1) day of on-campus suspension.
- E. Fifth Referral – The student will receive a one (1) three day (3) off-campus suspension and will be referred to the discipline panel.