

DMS School Uniform and Dress Code Policy

On June 9, 2009, the DeSoto County School Board approved the following uniform policy for DeSoto Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year:

- **Solid blue, black, or khaki pants**, walking shorts, slacks, skirts, skorts, jumpers, or similar clothing made of twill, corduroy, or denim fabric. (A small logo no bigger than your fist is acceptable)
- **Any solid color shirts with collars** such as a polo, oxford, or dress shirt (A small logo no bigger than your fist is acceptable)
- DeSoto Middle School (Panther) or club shirts are permitted for wear on Fridays.

The new uniform policy also includes the following:

- **Shoes/Footwear:** All students shall wear shoes. We encourage athletic shoes. Covered toes and heel shoes are acceptable. **No sandals.** Platforms and shoes with wheels may not be worn.
- The size of shirts and pants must be appropriate to the student's body size and not oversized or undersized.
- Shirts must be tucked into the waistband of the pants or skirt. Exceptions will be allowed in individual cases at administration's discretion.
- Pants or shorts with belt loops must be worn with a belt so that the waistband is worn at the waist and not below. Shorts are no shorter than mid-thigh.
- The hem of the girls' skirts or dresses must be no shorter than mid-thigh.

No student will be denied attendance at school or be penalized for failing to wear a school uniform due to financial hardship. DMS and The School Advisory Council will be developing procedures and criteria to offer assistance to these students. Parents are asked to notify administration if they need assistance.

STUDENT APPEARANCE & DRESS CODE POLICY

Students are required to wear appropriate clothing to school. Inappropriate clothing and appearance are disruptive to the school program and administration will enforce adherence to this policy. **School administrators have final authority to decide if clothing complies with the dress code policy.**

When it is determined that a student's clothing does not comply with the dress code, a parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothes to school. The student may, with parental permission, be sent home in order to change clothes. In addition, the student may also receive a disciplinary consequence for violating the school's dress code policy.

Violations of this Policy

Violations of this policy shall be treated as rebellious behavior in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. However, policy violations shall not carry over on the student's discipline record to subsequent years. This policy shall apply to students at all times when they attend school or any school sponsored event. Administration may exercise discretion and permit exceptions to this policy for extracurricular activities.

General Dress Code Policy Requirements

Appropriate Sizes: Students shall wear clothing of appropriate size as determined by administration exercising his or her judgment. The size of shirts and pants shall be appropriate to the student's body size and shall not be unduly oversized or undersized.

Shirts: Shirts shall be tucked into the waistband of the pants or skirt. Exceptions will be allowed in individual cases based upon the discretion of the principal or designee. All shirts must have sleeves.

Pants: Pants with belt loops shall be worn with a belt that is properly fastened. Pants shall be worn so that the waistband is worn at the waist and not below the waist.

Skirts and Dresses: The hem of girls' skirts or dresses shall be no shorter than mid-thigh as determined by administration in the exercise of his or her judgment.

Shoes/Footwear: All students shall wear shoes. We encourage athletic shoes. Covered toes and heel shoes are acceptable. **No sandals.** Platforms and shoes with wheels may not be worn.

Unacceptable Attire

Students are not allowed to wear clothing, jewelry (including body piercing jewelry and "grills"), buttons, haircuts, tattoos, or other attire or markings which are offensive, suggestive, disruptive, or indecent such as:

1. Clothing associated with gangs,
2. Clothing encouraging the use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence,
3. Clothing associated with discrimination on the basis of age, color, handicap, national origin, sexual orientation, marital status, race, religion, or sex.
4. Clothing exposing the torso or upper thighs such as see-through garments, mini-skirts or mini-dresses, halters, backless dresses, tube tops or tank tops without over shirts, spaghetti strap garments without over shirts, bare midriff outfits, or shirts tied at the midriff.
5. Clothing not properly fastened or with tears.
6. Clothing traditionally designed as undergarments such as boxer shorts, bloomers, tights, hosiery, and sleepwear should not be worn as outer garments.
7. Hats, headgear, sunglasses, or any head covering except when approved by administration.
8. Armbands, wristbands, belts, wallet chains, oversized chains of any size (example: dog chain style necklace, on wallets, etc.), or other items with heavy metal projections are prohibited.
9. Students may not display inappropriate markings (i.e., signs, graffiti, symbols, etc.) on themselves or any items they have at school.
10. Gang paraphernalia, jewelry, tattoos, clothing, or other insignias, (including writings), which provoke and/or promote violence or disruptions may not be worn.

Unacceptable Shorts

Athletic shorts including spandex-style “bicycle” shorts, basketball style shorts, cut-off jeans, frayed jeans or pants, cut-off sweat pants, short-shorts, and running shorts, are not permitted.

Winter/Cold Weather

On very cold days, students who walk, bike, etc, may need to wear sweatpants, etc. over their school clothes on their way to/from school. However, any clothing that doesn't meet dress code requirements must be removed before school begins. Blankets are not permitted.

Jackets, sweaters, coats, etc.

Any kind of jacket/coat/cardigan is OK if it meets regular dress code rules

- May not be disruptive, distracting, display offensive language/symbols, etc.
- School staff may ask students to remove jackets.
- Any pullover garment that is worn all day (sweater, sweater vest, sweatshirt) should:
 - Have a collar OR be worn with a collared uniform shirt or official school t-shirt underneath.
 - Must be a solid color (school sweatshirts are OK) Must not have any colored trim, stripes, decoration, etc. (small logos are OK)

Exceptions to the uniform dress code shall be permitted when:

- a. A student wears a uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization, such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, on regular meeting days.
- b. A student wears a costume or special clothing necessary for a school play or other school-sponsored activity as permitted by administration.
- c. A student's parent requests a reasonable accommodation to address the student's disability. Such request shall be reduced to writing and submitted to the principal for approval.

Violation of the Policy of Unacceptable Appearance (Not Necessarily Clothing)

It will be a violation of this Policy for a student to attend school or any school-sponsored event or function held during the school day with any visible body piercing, except for earrings on the ears, all other body piercing jewelry/items must be removed and not concealed. It will also be a violation of this Policy for any student to have his or her hair cut or worn in such a manner, or colored in such a manner, in an extreme fashion such that administration, within reasonable exercise of his or her discretion, determines it is so distracting or disruptive that it interferes with the orderly educational process.

By way of illustration only, and not by way of limitation, examples of unacceptable hair color or style would be extremely garish neon colors, orange, purple, green (or other unnatural colors), color patterns such as plaid or stripes, Mohawk style, extreme spiked hair and similarly unusual and distracting hairstyles.

Further, it will be a violation of the Policy for a student to wear makeup that is not within the acceptable standards for the school or community such that administration, within the reasonable exercise of his or her discretion, determines it is so distracting or disruptive that it interferes with the orderly educational process.

Breach of Conduct

Repeated violations of the Dress Code Policy shall be treated as rebellious behavior under the Code of Student Conduct.