

July 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians of Salem-Keizer Middle School Students:

The Salem-Keizer School District recognizes that a dress code policy enables the District to promote a safe and appropriate educational setting, which is free from unnecessary disruptions or outside influences.

Students' dress shall be modest, neat, clean, and in keeping with health, sanitary, and safety practices. To clearly establish this climate, the following are not acceptable at school or school-sponsored activities:

- Any clothing, jewelry or item with gang symbols, nicknames, weapons, drug references, profanity, or language including but not limited to: Homies, 8 balls, chains, jokers, brown pride, Asian pride, clowns, insane clown posse (ICP), football jerseys or shirts with the numbers 13, 14, 18, X3, X4, XIII, XIV, 503, 277, 278, 85, "420," swastikas, marijuana leaves, mushrooms.
- Any clothing or item that is a put down to self and/or others, including racial put-downs, sexually demeaning pictures, words, numbers, or sexual innuendo.
- Buckles with any gang, drug/alcohol, tobacco signs or symbols, or cut out letters, numbers or symbols.
- Clothing which compromises modesty. Immodest clothing such as tank tops, halter tops, tube tops, muscle shirts, backless tops/dresses or see through attire. Clothing that exposes inappropriate areas including undergarments, shoulders, and midriffs shall not be worn at school.
- Shorts and skirts that do not cover the mid thigh area. Fashion holes in pants must be below the thigh.
- Drawing/lettering including graffiti or gang-related symbols, gang nicknames, etc., on notebooks, backpacks or assignments.
- Chains. These include wallet, security and dog chains, including any form of spiked and/or studded accessories.
- Jewelry items that attract attention and are disruptive to the learning process.
- Overalls without the straps fastened on the shoulders.
- Sunglasses.
- Gloves.
- Full-length coats and rainwear inside the school.
- No head coverings including hats, stocking caps, scarves, bandanas.
- Writing on body and clothing.
- Pants that sag below the hips. Pant legs must be worn evenly. Pant legs cannot be so long that they drag on the ground. Belts are to be worn in the belt loops.

** (JCDB – 2 Policy 4.02 establishes that schools may individually expand dress code guidelines.)*

Individual schools may establish additional restrictions that apply to their schools; we will be working with families and the community on these issues. The intent of this letter is to promote a safe, educational environment for your son or daughter, and to provide some guidance that will be helpful in the selection of school clothing and supplies. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cole, Director, Middle School Education
Secondary Education