

January 10, 2018

Dear Hood River Valley High School Families,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2018, I would like to take an opportunity to share an upcoming change to our student code of conduct. My hope is that this letter will provide you with the necessary information in regards to the changes to the Hood River Valley High School Student Dress Code Policy.

In 2016-2017, a committee of students, staff, and parents convened to analyze and assess our current dress code. The committee met on multiple occasions to develop a dress code that met certain goals. The goals of the new dress code are listed below:

- Develop a policy that is enforceable and removes subjectivity.
- Develop a policy that is clear and easy to understand.
- Remove any vague language and opinions.
- Remove opinion-based punishments.
- Create a policy that is consistent.
- Reflect the values of the students, staff, and community of Hood River County.
- Have equitable voices.
- Empower both students and staff.

Following the work of the committee, a revised dress code was brought to our Department Area Representatives, HRVHS Site Council, and the Associated Student Body Officers for approval. All three groups approved the revised (and included) dress code policy. The revised dress code can also be found online at: <https://www.hoodriver.k12.or.us/Page/6825> .

Implementation of the new dress code begins February 6th, the first day of the second semester. Our process for implementation includes this communication to families as well as explicitly taught lessons that will highlight the changes and expectations in regards to allowable and non-allowable clothing and attire

Thank you for your support as we make this transition. Please know I am available to answer any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Kyle Rosselle, Vice Principal

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Reference:

[Hood River County School District Student Dress and Grooming Policy JFCA:](#)

<http://policy.osba.org/hoodriver/J/JFCA%20D1.PDF>

## **Hood River Valley High School Student Dress Code Policy**

The Hood River Valley High School Dress Code policy applies to all students at Hood River Valley High School. The responsibility for the dress and grooming of a student rests primarily with the student and their parents or guardians.

In 2016-2017, the Hood River Valley High School Dress Code Committee, including staff members and students, convened in the Spring of 2017 to develop language for a new policy.

The reasons include but are not limited to the bulleted items below:

- Develop a policy that is enforceable and removes subjectivity.
- Develop a policy that is designed to be clear and easy to understand.
- Remove any vague language and opinion.
- Create a policy that is consistent.
- Reflect the values of the students, staff, and community of Hood River County.
- Have equitable voices.
- Empower both students and staff.

## **GOALS OF A STUDENT DRESS CODE**

A student dress code should accomplish several goals:

- Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as chemistry/biology (eye or body protection), dance (bare feet, tights/leotards), or PE (athletic attire/shoes).
- Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
- Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
- Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discipline discrimination.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech, and pornography.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing with images or language depicting or advocating violence or the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, body type/size, religion, and personal style.
- School administrators and teachers must enforce the district dress code consistently, once it is adopted. School administration and staff should not have discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to discriminatory enforcement.
- School staff should be trained and able to use student/body-positive language to explain the code and to address code violations.

- School staff will provide on-going education in connection with our positive behavior expectations.

### **Allowable Dress & Grooming**

- Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent and shoes (no swimsuits, swimsuit tops, or “open sided shirts”)
- Shirts and dresses must have fabric in the front and on the sides. Shirts must cover the front down to the belly button. (The belly button may be exposed.)
- Clothing must cover undergarments. (Waistbands and shoulder bra straps are excluded.)
- Fabric covering all buttocks, genitalia, and nipples must not be see through. No visible bras, including backstraps, or underwear.
- Hats and other headwear must allow the face to be visible and not interfere with the line of sight to any student or staff. Hoodies must allow the student face and ears to be visible to staff upon request.
- Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, woodshop, and other activities where unique hazards exist.
- Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.
- No exceptions to the dress code will be made for extra curricular clubs or activities. (School dances and activities are exempted with administrator approval.)

### **Non-Allowable Dress & Grooming**

- Clothing may not depict, advertise, or advocate the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or other controlled substances. (i.e: No clothing with the name of breweries, wineries, tobacco companies, or marijuana dispensaries.)
- Stickers, artwork, or other representations may not depict, advertise, or advocate the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or other controlled substances.
- Clothing may not depict pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.
- Clothing may not use or depict hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected groups including but not limited to confederate flags and swastikas.
- Clothing may not include images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class.
- Clothing may not threaten the health or safety of any other student or staff (no gang-related clothing).
- If the student’s attire or grooming threatens the health or safety of any other person, then discipline for dress or grooming violations should be consistent with discipline policies for similar violations.

- Helmets, sunglasses, or headgear may not obscure the face (except as a religious observance).