

VIII. DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

Tri-County respects individual differences but also believes that it is important that all students be dressed for success. Research in education and business has indicated that how a person dresses affects both his/her self-esteem and his/her performance.

The following guidelines have been prepared in accordance with our **Statement of Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality** to provide consistency. They are to be followed by all students.

1. Boys and girls should be dressed neatly, tastefully, and appropriately. Clothing should be clean, in good repair, and proper fitting. Girls are expected to wear proper undergarments according to their stage of development.
2. **Specifics for K – 8th Grade Girls: Acceptable pants are: jeans, khakis, athletic pants, and dress pants.** Pants must be worn at or above the top of the hip and have no holes or rips. A belt must be worn for pants with a loose waistline. Dress and skirts should be **no more than 4 inches above the top of the knee**. Girls in lower grades are asked to wear shorts under their dresses. Leggings or jeggings may be worn underneath skirts, dresses, and long sweaters/tops as long as the **top covers the student's bottom completely in ALL times and in ALL activities**. Sweatpants are not permitted.
3. **Specifics for K – 8th Grade Boys: Acceptable pants are: jeans, khakis, athletic pants, and dress pants.** Pants must be worn at or above the top of the hip and have no holes or rips. A belt must be worn for pants with a loose waistband. Sweatpants are not permitted.

Exception for Preschool Students: Sweatpants are permitted.

4. Shirts must cover the back and midriff **at ALL times in ALL activities**. The collar of the shirt must be modest and not cut too low. Shirts must be proper fitting and not see through. Unacceptable shirts include: tank tops, tank sweaters, spaghetti strap tops, and clothing advertising unacceptable practices or glorifying questionable personalities.
5. Students may wear shorts or capris to school from April 1st through October 31st. Shorts must be **no more than 4 inches from the top of the knee**. Biker/spandex shorts may be worn as long as the **top covers the student's bottom completely in ALL times and in ALL activities**.
6. Hair styles should be clean, neatly trimmed, and in one of the four natural colors (black, brown, blonde or red).
7. Earrings are not permissible for boys.

8. Visible tattoos, markings, or bodily piercings (other than the ear for girls) are not allowed.
9. Shoes must be worn at all times during the school day. Sandals must securely hold the shoe to the foot. Flip-flops and slippers are not acceptable footwear. In general, shoe must be appropriate for the safety of the student in the event of an emergency.

The items outlined do not necessarily comprise a complete list of questionable practices in contemporary dress. On occasion there may be a situation where something may have to be brought to the attention of a student and/or the family, recognizing there is always a degree of subjectivity involved. The decision of the school must prevail. The school reserves the right to change its rules and policies as situations or individual needs arise. **Violations of these principles are subject to the consequences laid out in the Discipline Policy Framework.**