

### **5.3 DRESS CODE**

#### **Purpose**

#### **SECTION ONE**

A dress code is an important part of the distinctive learning environment families find at Vanguard Academy. When students follow a dress code, they are more accepting of each other and they focus more on their school work and less on their appearance. Dress codes improve the classroom learning environment; build citizenship and a sense of community; and assist students, parents and families.

Because dress codes are standard attire in many academically rigorous secondary schools, their adoption signals high academic expectations to students. Dress codes improve the classroom environment and student learning by:

- Helping students concentrate on their school work by setting a tone for serious study
- Decreasing distractions created by shifting fashion and socioeconomic differences
- Building self-esteem, self-respect, and school spirit among students
- Maintaining a healthy and positive school image in the community through a clean and neat appearance
- Providing a visible and public symbol of commitment to high academic standards and student achievement
- Simplifying the daily morning school routine
- Reducing the cost of school clothing
- Providing a safer environment by assisting administrators, faculty, staff, parents and students in instantly recognizing intruders.

#### **Definitions**

#### **Policy**

In order to ensure compliance with the Vanguard Academy Dress Code/Uniform Policy, parents and students should carefully review all Dress Code guidelines contained within this policy.

#### **SECTION TWO: GENERAL GUIDELINES**

Students and parents at Vanguard Academy agree to adhere to the school's Dress Code when they enroll at the school. In order to attain the desired benefits achieved through the wearing of a dress code, consistent enforcement of the dress code is necessary. Enforcement of the dress code Policy is overseen by the Director and school staff. A dress code infraction occurs when a student comes to school out of compliance with the Vanguard Academy Dress Code Policy. Examples of infractions include, but are not limited to: a student wearing an item that does not meet the prescribed code description (e.g. navy polo shirt, T-shirt, offensive pictures, words or logos, dirty, stained or foul-smelling clothing)

The school strives to achieve dress code compliance through use of positive reinforcement, but when dress code infractions occur students are subject to established administrative rules. Administrative rules for dress code infractions shall define a system to track dress code infractions, as well as reasonable and appropriate disciplinary consequences to deter frequent and excessive dress code infractions. Additionally, the rules shall include a method to effectively communicate student dress code infractions to parents throughout the process, detail the specific steps that will be taken as the number of dress code infractions escalates, and provide opportunity for the Director or his/her designee to participate in parent meetings to educate students and parents regarding how to correct and avoid dress code infractions.

### SECTION THREE: POLICY AND REGULATIONS

Statement of Dress Code Policy: A uniform-style dress code is mandatory at Vanguard Academy and must be adhered to during school hours.

The Director shall be allowed the discretion to occasionally and reasonably suspend specific dress code requirements (e.g. spirit days, field day, etc.)

All clothing and related dress code items that are not specifically covered in this policy but considered inappropriate or contrary to the stated purpose of the dress code as outlined in the Vanguard Academy Dress Code policy are subject to review and interpretation by school administration. It will be left to the discretion of the teacher, staff and/or Director to determine whether or not an item in question is compliant with the school's dress code and/or constitutes a distraction to the educational environment of the classroom and school.

Appearance: Students must present a clean, modest, and neat appearance at all times. Shirts must be buttoned. Shoes must be fastened. All clothing must be worn right-side-out. All clothing must be appropriately sized and worn correctly. Pants, shorts, skirts, and skorts must be worn at the waist; no "low-riding" clothing will be allowed. Pants may not be pegged or rolled up. Layering of same colored dress code shirts is allowed. Clothing shall not be excessively worn or faded. Any clothing that has holes/manufactured holes, decorative patches, tears, or rips is prohibited.

Logos: The Vanguard Academy logo may be worn (optional) on any approved dress code top. The Vanguard Academy logo should not be reproduced without the express consent of the Vanguard Academy Board of Directors.

Modification Process: The Director shall monitor dress code implementation and recommend any needed policy or regulation changes to the Governing Board as perceived to be necessary based on developing circumstances. In considering any changes to the dress code, the Director and Governing Board shall consider at least the following elements: quality, cost availability for purchase, and style.

#### General Information:

Students should come to school appropriately dressed for the weather. All clothing and shoes must fit the student. All clothing must be clean, unstained, in good condition with no holes, or manufactured holes. Legs down to and including the knee must be covered. Students must bathe often enough to look and smell clean.

## DRESS CODE

### **Shirts (Colors: White, Royal Blue, Royal Purple, Silver/Light Gray, Black)**

- Must be a solid school color, have a collar (any style, folded down)
- No logos or pictures (Vanguard and partnering schools' official logos are OK)
- Must cover entire shoulder with a non-broken sleeve and must cover cleavage at all times. Shirts must be tucked in if the bottom of the shirt is longer than the bottom of the pant zipper
- No skin at the waist should show during normal activity
- Sheer or lace fabrics must be fully lined with solid fabric, skin and/or underwear should not be visible under the lace/sheer fabric
- Boys are encouraged to tuck in their shirts

### **Pants, Skirts, Skorts, & Dresses (Colors: Navy, Khaki Tan, Black, Gray)**

- Must be solid school dress code color (this includes stitching, zippers, and other embellishments)
- No denim jeans
- Waist must fit or belt must be worn to keep the pants at the waist
- No holes or manufactured holes
- Shorts, leggings, jeggings and stretch/yoga garments may only be worn as undergarments and must be the same solid school dress code color as the dress/skirt (tights may be white)
- Boys are encouraged to wear belts

### **Coats/Jackets**

- Must be in good repair
- No offensive logos, words, pictures, or designs
- May be hooded, but hoods must be off whenever in the building

### **Shoes and Socks**

- Must be worn at all times and in good working condition. Must have a back strap
- Socks are required except with girls' dress sandals

### **Hair and Jewelry**

- Natural hair colors only. Must be trimmed out of the eyes, no bizarre, extreme, or unusual hairstyles.
- Hair must be clean and brushed/combed (boys' hair must be cut above the collar and the ears)
- No excessive jewelry. No earrings, gauges, plugs, tattoos, or drawing on the skin

**FRIDAYS**

- Shirts may be: Vanguard or partnering school collared, Vanguard or partnering school logo-wear Vanguard sport teams and academic club spirit shirts
- Pants may be: any school dress code color, regular or faded denim, NO HOLES/MANUFACTURED HOLES OR DECORATIVE PATCHES (under or over holes)
- Capris are allowed, must fully cover the knee during normal activity and sitting

**SPIRIT DAYS, CONCERTS, FIELD TRIPS, FIELD DAY, AND OTHER VANGUARD ACTIVITIES**

- Dress code will be followed unless written guidelines are issued by Vanguard administration or their designee stating specific allowances.

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**References**

**Revision History and Approval Date**

Original:

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