

DaVinci Academy of Science and The Arts

Policy Number: 104

Policy Section: 100 – Administration

POLICY TITLE: Dress Code/School Culture Policy

Revision History

Effective Date	Action Date	Revised
21 May 2008	New Policy	New Policy

Dress Code/School Culture Policy

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The dress code policy ensures all students have the opportunity to learn and grow in an environment conducive to learning. Holding students accountable for these expectations will result in responsible, well- rounded individuals, prepared for success in both college and career.

Each student is expected to take pride in his/her appearance; to dress and groom in a manner that will not disrupt the instructional climate at The DaVinci Academy of Science and the Arts. To maintain an orderly and safe environment, and to promote an appreciation of the importance of appropriate attire in a place of learning and career, students are expected to follow the DASA policy which was adopted in May 2008.

1. PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE POLICY IS TO:

1.1 Promote an appreciation for a DaVinci Academy education by:

- Maintaining an academically driven decorum while at school
- Investing in a professional appearance while in a learning environment.
- Devoting an attitude of compliance to our dress code and its enforcement.

1.2 Improve and expand academic excellence by:

- Instilling students with discipline.
- Helping parents and students resist peer pressure.
- Helping students concentrate on their school work.
- Encouraging an improvement in student behavior.
- Encouraging a high level of program participation.

1.3 Improve personal appearance by:

- Making affordable school clothing for students and their families.
- Requiring professional attire more suited for academic achievement.
- Establish a recognizable appearance for our students as we continue in our mission of community partnerships and field extension opportunities.
- Students preparing themselves each morning for the rigor of academics developed by the DaVinci Academy faculty.

1.4 Provide additional opportunities for increased school safety by:

- Decreasing violence and theft among students over designer clothing or expensive sneakers.
- Preventing gang members from wearing gang colors and insignias while at school.
- Preventing the concealing of paraphernalia that violates safe school policies.
- Helping school officials to more easily recognize intruders who enter the school.

2. DRESS CODE: DaVinci recognizes that proper dress and grooming positively affect the behavior and health of students. Therefore, DaVinci sets the following standards for school dress and appearance: DaVinci reserves the right to prohibit any item of clothing which may cause a disturbance to an orderly school environment.

1.1 Cleanliness- Emphasis shall be placed on neatness, cleanliness, and safety in the personal appearance of students. Please shower and wear deodorant.

1.2 ID Badges- All students, faculty, staff, visitors, and volunteers are required to wear an official school issued at all times while on campus. This badge must be worn on a lanyard to ensure visibility of the badge for identification purposes.

1.3 Clothing- Modesty in the personal appearance of students is stressed.

- **Shirts/Blouses:** DaVinci Academy requires that all shirts must have a collar and be clean with no holes or tatters. Conservative patterns including stripes and plaids are allowed. Shirt sleeves cannot be altered: cut off or shortened in a permanent manner. If an undershirt is worn, it cannot be revealing in any manner. Plain colored t-shirts are acceptable under collared shirts. Shirts need to be fitted and long enough to cover all undergarments at all times (Including reaching hands up, bending over, or sitting). Spaghetti straps, halter tops and bare midriffs will not be permitted. Clothing shall be made of materials that do not reveal personal underclothing. Logos on shirts are not permitted over 1 inch in size. DASA faculty and staff reserve the right to interpret whether or not attire is appropriate.
- **Pants/Skirts/Shorts:** Slacks, long shorts, skirts and pants are allowed in the following colors and fabrics: olive green, dark brown, black, navy, white, gray, khaki or dark wash jean color; twill, cotton, linen, cotton-poly blends or denim (NO terry, fleece, spandex or stretch fabric). If denim is worn, they must be dark blue or black, with trouser cut (meaning not tight or baggy around the length of the leg). Slacks, long shorts, skirts and all

pants need to be worn on the hips (no sagging). Shorts and skirts must reach the top of the kneecap when standing upright. Skirts can be patterned. Logos or insignias may show on the slacks, long shorts, skirts and pants if under 1 square inch in size. Split seams, cut-off or frayed hems are NOT ALLOWED. Embellishments such as sparkles, glitter, lace or embroidery must be kept to a minimum. No spikes or chains on any clothing are permitted. DASA faculty and staff reserve the right to interpret whether attire is appropriate.

- **Outerwear-** Large coats and pullover hoodies will not be permitted. Fitted zip-up hoodies without logos in solid colors, fitted blazers, sweater vests, fitted sweaters, and school sponsored outerwear will be permitted. DASA faculty and staff reserve the right to interpret whether attire is appropriate.
- **Shoes -** DaVinci Academy requires that shoes be worn both in and outside the school at all times. Slippers and flip flops of any kind are not allowed. A flip flop is defined as a sandal composed primarily of plastic or foam. Bare or stocking feet will not be permitted at school or school-sponsored activities. Students must insure that they have the appropriate foot-ware for the days' activities (i.e. gym shoes for gym class, closed toed shoes for field trips, etc). DASA faculty and staff reserve the right to interpret whether attire is appropriate.
- **Accessories and Attachments-** Any apparel, jewelry, accessory, notebook, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark or any other attribute, denotes membership in such a group that advocates drug/alcohol use or exhibits behavior that interferes with the normal or orderly operation of a school is prohibited. Clothing will not be permitted which advertises or depicts any substance or contraband associated with such substances that a student cannot legally possess or use.
- Prohibited items include chains on wallets, spikes or studs on any item of clothing, excessive bracelets, or any accessory or excessive amounts of accessories which may be considered a risk to the health and safety or cause distraction from the educational process may not be worn. Badges or symbols worn in protest are accepted as long as they comply with current dress code policy. In addition, no chains will be allowed on any part of the body or clothing. Necklaces will be permitted as long as the single link does not exceed 1/16 inch. Hats will be confiscated and will not be returned until the end of the year. Administration and faculty reserve the right to determine whether the excessive nature of the accessory or attachment is a distraction for the students.

- **Gang Paraphernalia Or Apparel-** A gang is defined as a group of three or more individuals with a unique name, identifiable marks or symbols, who may claim a territory or turf, associate on a regular basis, and who engage in criminal, antisocial behavior, or interfere with the normal orderly operation of the school. Gang activities are prohibited in school and at extra-curricular or school related activities as is the wearing of gang paraphernalia or apparel that identifies a student as a gang member. Students aligning themselves with gangs or engaging in gang activities may be suspended or expelled from school. Gang paraphernalia or apparel will be confiscated by school officials and not returned. DASA faculty and staff reserve the right to interpret whether attire is appropriate.
- **Electronic Devices-** Cell phones, pagers, unauthorized cameras, iPods, MP3 players, radios, portable stereos, tape recorders, headphones, and comparable electronic devices are prohibited during school hours between the hours of 8:15 and 3:00 in the building or in the DASA Courtyard. Lap tops are prohibited unless specific authorization has been given by a faculty member for a school sponsored activity. If devices are used at any unauthorized time by students and/or observed by teachers, administration or other staff the device will be confiscated and a parent can pick up the device from school. Upon retrieval the parent will receive notification of their student's first offense and sign a contract stating their knowledge of the school policy dealing with electronic devices and the consequence if their student has a second offense. On the second offense, the device will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school year.
An offense against the electronic devices policy is any time a student has ANY device taken away; offense one and two can be two different devices. Each subsequent offense will be handled on a case by case basis, resulting in, but not limited, to suspension.
- **Other Requirements -** Body piercing is limited to ears only, one earring in each ear. No other piercing will be allowed. Jewelry must also be modest, safe, and of a non-distracting style. Violations of this policy will be documented and if a student is non-compliant, he/she will be sent home to change immediately. Multiple offenses of this policy by any student may result in disciplinary action. DASA faculty and staff reserve the right to interpret whether attire is appropriate.

1.4 DaVinci Spirit Day Lab Days (Wednesday) – Lab Wednesdays are implemented to promote project based learning in extended period classes. Students will be able to wear T-shirts on these days. Students leaving the building on field extension opportunities outside of school will wear DaVinci T-shirts or hodies, or standard dress code apparel.

3. TO ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS MEET OUR HIGH EXPECTATIONS, THE FOLLOWING RULES WILL BE OBSERVED:

- 3.1 If there is a question on the compliance of an article of clothing, parents or students are encouraged to contact the administration regarding the appropriateness of any clothing item or accessory before it is worn to school.
- 3.2 WE *recommend* that shirts will be worn *tucked in*. No tied up waist wraps or permanent arm length modifications are allowed. Please help with this procedure by making sure your child is properly attired upon entering the school.
- 3.3 All undershirts must be plain color.
- 3.4 NO pajama bottoms or slippers allowed.
- 3.5 Shorts, dress, or skirts must be worn at knee length or longer.
- 3.6 Undergarments cannot be exposed while standing, sitting or bending over.
- 3.7 Students are required to dress out for P.E. Activity; uniforms are sold at the school.
- 3.8 On special dress-up days, if a student is not dressing in appropriate “theme” clothing and jewelry, he/she must wear their regular dress code standard clothing. Theme clothing and jewelry must be modest and not distracting to the instructional setting. No chains/spikes will be allowed.
- 3.9 Hair should be styled in a way that is not deemed a distraction to others; this includes unnatural or unusual colors.
- 3.10 In all dress, professionalism and appropriateness will be expected.
- 3.11 NO Cell phones, pagers, or communication device is permitted on campus during school hours (8:15 am-3:00 pm).
- 3.12 NO hats, electronic headgear, beanies, or bandanas around neck, on head, in your hands while on school grounds. Hats must be removed when you come in the door and can only be on your person before and after school. They must remain in your locker during school hours 8:15 am -3:00 pm. If your hat is confiscated it will NOT be returned until the end of the year (This will happen on all offenses.)

4. ENFORCEMENT: It is the responsibility of both parent and student to prepare for school at the DaVinci Academy in the appropriate dress code of the school. Teachers will rotate responsibilities involving before, after school and lunch duties. Students found in dress code violation will go through the disciplinary process outlined below. Repeating offenders will be subject to further discipline, suspension, and/ or expulsion.

- 4.1 First Offense-** Students will be given the choice of wearing an oversized shirt provided by the school (if necessary) or call home and have clothing brought to the school where a change can be made. Students will remain in the office until required changes are made. Excuse from class will not be given. Students refusing to comply with enforcement procedures will be suspended until a parent meeting can take place to review the DaVinci Academy dress code.

- 4.2 Subsequent Offenses-** A parent/guardian will be contacted and attend a meeting with administration. The student and parent will need to sign a dress code contract. Any violation of that contract will result in additional suspension until the parent is able to shadow their student for a day at school. Again, hats and bandanas will not be returned until the close of the school year. Administrative suspension or expulsion may result from continued violations.

5. TEACHER DRESS CODE ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE: Teachers will wear professional clothing appropriate for the teaching standards of DaVinci Academy. Teachers are encouraged to dress in a manner in which they will model professionalism for their students, including wearing of their DaVinci Identification Badge while on campus. Appropriate attire does not include short pants, sweat suits, revealing clothing or T-shirts or denim pants. Teachers will avoid excessively tight, extreme styles, and headgear. Hats and flip flops will not be worn. PE teachers will wear professional clothing suitable for the day's activities.

*Note: The Administration may make exceptions to the above policy for personal, religious or medical reasons.