



BRANDON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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July 3, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians:

After a year of battling with some of our boys who wore their pants below their waists and some of our girls whose skirts and shorts were too high and blouses too low, a group of students, parents, and teachers met in June to draft a dress code specifically for Brandon Middle School while adhering to the school division's dress code as well. The purpose of this letter is to share with you Brandon Middle School's dress code for the 2008-2009 school year before you begin to shop for fall school clothes.

Appropriate Male Attire

- Collared, polo, or T-shirts. Shirts designed to be worn outside pants or shorts may be allowed provided the length of such clothing does not extend below the wrists when both of the student's hands are at his side.
- Pants or jeans **worn at the waist with a belt** without visible rips or holes.

Appropriate Female Attire

- Dresses, T-shirts with sleeves, tops, or blouses that overlap bottom garment.
- Jeans, pants, Bermuda shorts, or Capri pants without visible rips or holes.
- Shorts or skirts with a minimum of a 4-inch inseam and skirts that fall as long as the student's longest finger.
- Shorter skirts must be worn with leggings.
- Blouses and T-shirts designed to be worn outside pants or shorts may be allowed provided the length of such clothing does not extend below the wrists when both of the student's hands are at her side.

Inappropriate Attire (Male and Female)

- Underwear as outer garments or clothing that exposes underwear and items not appropriate for classroom settings, including, but not limited to, stretch Lycra, spandex, skin tight clothing, biker pants, biker shorts, bathing suits, sleeveless shirts for boys, and pajamas.
- Inappropriate footwear (including, but not limited to bedroom slippers, unfastened shoes and shoes missing appropriate closures).
- Tank tops, halter tops, garments with straps that do not cover from the neckline to the shoulder, tube tops, fishnet tops, strapless dresses or tops, or other clothing that is not appropriate because of slits, rips, or holes in the garment.
- Pants, skirts, skorts, or shorts that have writing on the buttocks.
- Accessories which in some way pose a danger to the wearer or others and are/could be used as weapons (including, but not limited to, two- or three-finger finger rings, chains hanging from clothes, unfastened belts, picks, and hair chopsticks).

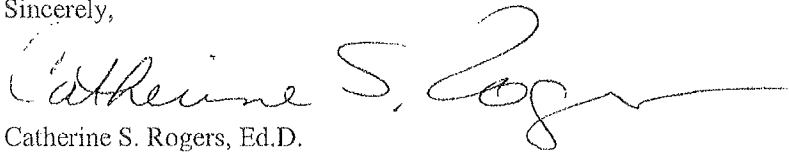
- Any clothing that can be construed as gang related attire such as plain red or blue T-shirts, bandanas, and Mardi Gras beads.
- Tote bags, backpacks, and book bags may not be used as purses and must be housed in the student's locker during the day
- Items that are intended for outdoors (including, but not limited to, hats, caps, hoods on sweatshirts, and similar head coverings; scarves, jackets, coats, gloves).

In dealing with dress code violations, we realized that we needed to be specific so that the parents and students would know what acceptable dress is for our children. We are in the process of creating a Dress Code Do's and Don't's bulletin board across from the cafeteria as well as having a Dress Code Fashion Show when we meet with students at each grade level the second week of school.

The staff at Brandon Middle School is committed to preparing our students for the future. Our students are not too young to know how to dress appropriately for school and in the future for their workplace. We believe strongly that when students are not distracted by unacceptable clothing worn by others that they will be able to concentrate better on their studies. We also believe that when students dress for success, they will be more successful.

We count on your support during this coming year to ensure that all of our students are appropriately and modestly dressed when they come to school on September 2, 2008, and throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine S. Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Catherine S. Rogers, Ed.D.
Principal

Parents, will you please review your student's shot record by looking for the shot that may be listed as DPT, T, Td, Dtap, and /or Tdap. The vaccine may be obtained from your private physician or pediatrician, the area's military clinics, or the Virginia Beach Health Department at 4452 Corporation Lane.

If you have not yet provided proof of this immunization to your child's elementary school, please bring proof of this immunization to the guidance office **PRIOR** to the first day of school. State law dictates that your child may **not** be allowed to begin sixth grade if this proof has not been received.

Thank you so much and enjoy the rest of the summer. See you in September!