

## Pinckneyville Middle School

### DRESS CODE

It is essential that students respect the learning environment by being appropriately dressed for school. The purpose of a student dress code is not to inhibit any person's taste in attire, but rather to ensure a positive environment for learning, to promote safety, and to prevent disruptions. Any student dress or appearance, not specifically stated, which the faculty or staff deems distracting will not be permitted. Students may call home for a change of clothes or be asked to wear school issued apparel. Students who are unable to change clothes will be isolated for the day.

- **Jackets and sweatshirts with hoods must be removed upon entering the building and stored in a backpack or locker for the duration of the school day.**  
**Clarification** - This includes caps, hoods, wave caps, sweatbands, or any other head covering. No grooming tools are to be worn in the hair. The principal may grant exceptions for religious or medical reasons.
- **Headphones and ear buds must be stored in a pocket or bag and must not be visible unless directed by the teacher.**
- **Hats, hoods, sun glasses, or visors are not allowed.**  
**Clarification** - This includes caps, hoods, wave caps, sweatbands, or any other head covering. No grooming tools are to be worn in the hair. The principal may grant exceptions for religious or medical reasons.
- **Shorts, skirts, and dresses need to be of a reasonable, responsible length.**  
**Clarification** - Shorts and skirts worn with bare legs must be fingertip length when arms are fully extended below the waist. (This includes athletic shorts.) Shorts, skirts or tunics worn with leggings must follow the "rule of thumb" – that is, the short, skirt, or tunic must reach past the tip of the thumb when arms are fully extended. Slits in skirts and dresses cannot be above mid-thigh. Waistline of shorts, skirts, and pants must be on or above the hips with no underwear showing.
- **Leggings cannot be worn as stand-alone outerwear to include athletic leggings and compression tights.**  
**Clarification** - Pants must have a zipper and a button to be considered outerwear. Leggings that do not have a zipper and a button can only be worn under skirts, shorts, or tunics that meet the "rule of thumb" (see previous bullet).
- **Clothing must not have holes that would attract attention and cause a distraction.**  
**Clarification** - Rips or holes are not allowed in shirts or tops. No undergarments should be visible. There should be no rips, holes or frayed patches above the knee on any clothing. Students may wear tights beneath jeans that have a small amount of rips; however, excessive rips will still result in a dress code violation.
- **Tank tops, spaghetti strap shirts, muscle shirts, mesh jerseys, bare midriff, tight fitting, or see-through clothing may not be worn.**  
**Clarification** - Blouses and shirts must cover the tops of the shoulders. Blouses and shirts that expose any portion of the waist, hips, or midriff are not allowed. If you raise your arms to shoulder level and the stomach shows, the top is unacceptable. Other blouses and shirts that are not appropriate for school include but are not limited to: low-cut, backless, or tube tops. Rips or holes are not allowed in shirts or tops. No undergarments should be visible. Pajamas, slippers, and blankets are not allowed.
- **Clothing must not advertise or promote alcohol, tobacco, drugs or sex.**  
**Clarification** - No student clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate, suggest or depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, illegal gang affiliation or other illegal activity express or implied. No student clothing or accessories shall be disruptive or have caused past disruption to the school environment.
- **Sagging of pants is not permitted.**  
**Clarification** - Waistline of shorts, skirts, and pants must be on or above the hips. All belts must be properly fastened around the waist. The belt should not be excessive in length or hang from either side of the body. If a student must hold onto their pants in order to keep them from falling when they walk, the pants are not appropriate for school.
- **Any markings or insignias on clothing, jewelry, or the body must not be obscene, suggestive, or advocate disruptive, illegal behavior.**  
**Clarification** - Students are not allowed to display clothing or symbols that have been identified by the Gwinnett County Police Gang Taskforce as being commonly identified with gangs. Garments, jewelry, body art and tattoos that communicate gang allegiance are not allowed to be worn at school, and no item may be worn in a manner that communicates gang affiliation. Gang related attire includes but is not limited to the following: students rolling up one pant leg, gang-styled belt buckles (belt buckles which have Old English script letters and symbols), bandanas, sweatbands and/or headbands, and draping articles of clothing, towels, or other objects out of pants pockets or over the shoulder or neck area. Chains hanging from pockets are not allowed. This rule is subject to updates as additional wearing apparel becomes identified as gang affiliated or disruptive. You should consult the Pinckneyville website frequently to be informed about additions or changes.
- **Recreational cheerleading uniforms are not to be worn during the school day.**
- **Shoes must be worn at all times. (Bedroom slippers are not appropriate for school.)**
- **Students may not wear blankets, capes or cloaks in school. All coats must be worn properly.**

A good rule to follow is that if you have doubts, don't wear it to school. Thank you for helping us to focus on instruction!

Please note that any attire deemed inappropriate and detrimental to the learning environment by a school employee, but not specifically listed herein, constitutes a violation of the PMS dress code.

#### Procedure for Dress Code Violations

This dress code is merely a guide for what is considered appropriate school dress. Any Pinckneyville Middle School staff member has the authority and responsibility to determine appropriate or inappropriate appearance. Students who are found to be in violation of the dress code will be sent to a designated area (band room) to call their parents. Once the parent is notified of the dress code violation, the student will be given the opportunity to change into appropriate attire if they have it. If not, the parent can choose to bring a change of clothes. If parents are unavailable, students may be placed in ISS for the day until a change of clothing arrives to school. Repeated violations will result in disciplinary action.

**Students in violation of dress code will not be permitted to return to class until they change into clothes that adhere to the Pinckneyville Middle School dress code.**

