

Veterans Park Academy for the Arts Uniform Policy – August 2021

The purpose of a school uniform policy is to encourage students to focus on learning without the distractions of unsuitable dress and grooming. Personal appearance shall not detract from the educational process. Students shall maintain an orderly and clean appearance at all times. When a student's appearance at school becomes a disruptive factor, a safety hazard, or a health concern, the administration will take the appropriate steps to correct and remedy the situation. The minimum acceptable standards for student dress and grooming to be interpreted and enforced by the principal or designees at VPAA are:

Tops: All polo shirts or polo dresses must have collars and be solid red, white, navy blue, or hunter green without logos. All shirts must be properly fitted and must be tucked in at the waist throughout the school day. If a student wears a t-shirt underneath his/her shirt, it must be white or the color of the shirt being worn. Undergarments must not be visible. The length of the shirt must be long enough to stay tucked in properly. When the student raises both hands over his/her head, midriff should not be visible at any time. Performance groups/clubs/and grade levels will be given the opportunity to purchase a T-shirt to wear. Students are allowed to wear their grade level/team shirts only on Mondays and Fridays.

Bottoms: Shorts, long pants, skirts, skorts, capri pants or jumpers must be navy blue or khaki in color. All bottoms must be properly fitted (tight clothing is not permitted). Shorts, skorts, polo dresses, skirts, and jumpers must fall no higher than 3 inches above the knee. All bottoms must be worn at the waist at all times. No alterations to bottoms are acceptable (for example: if bottoms are bought with belt loops they cannot be removed). Denim material, spandex, sweatpants, skinny pants, cut offs, pants made of stretchy material, cargo pants/shorts and joggers are not permitted. Students may not wear navy blue tops and navy blue bottoms together. Tights/leggings can be worn only under skirts, polo dresses, or jumpers (not shorts). They must be solid white or navy blue. Bottoms that have designs on the pockets or rivets along the pockets (tan jeans) are not considered dress code attire, neither are decorative rips.

Belts: All bottoms with belt loops must be worn at the waist with a belt at all times. School-approved belts include leather or canvas (no fabric material). They must be a solid color: red, white, navy blue, hunter green, black, brown, or tan. The belt must be plain and free from studs, spikes, or other decorative embellishments. The buckle of the belt must be simple and free from symbols, logos, or other adornments (plain belt buckles).

Jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts: All outerwear worn during the school day must be a solid color: red, white, hunter green, or navy blue. Hoods must remain off the student's head and may not cover or block view of the student's face. Jackets may not have faux fur, embellishments, or logos. Jackets are not to be used to cover up dress code violations.

Hair: Hair and hair extensions must be of natural color. Hair and hair extensions may not be dyed or colored in any way. Mohawks, extreme spiked hair, or designs cut into hair are considered a distraction and, therefore, are not permitted. Eyebrows must not be edged, shaved, or designed in any manner. Plain hair bands are permitted (no animal ears, horns, etc.). Hats are not permitted.

Shoes: All shoes must be closed-toe and closed-heel with a rubber sole. No high-heels, boots, flip flops, Crocs, slides, or slippers.

Socks: Solid white, black, red, grey, or navy blue socks must be worn below the knee. Socks with a logo smaller than a quarter are permitted. Socks must be worn with all shoes at all times.

Cosmetics: Makeup must not be excessive to the point where it becomes a disruptive factor. Writing on the body, tattoos, and/or body stickers are not permitted.

Jewelry: Students may wear one necklace. Chains longer than 20 inches in length are prohibited, and all chains must be worn inside of the shirt at all times. Adornments on the necklaces must be smaller than a quarter. Chokers, dog collars, spikes, or chain wallets are not permitted. Students may wear one ring per hand and one bracelet per wrist. Earrings are limited to one pair of hoops regardless of the number of piercings, and all earrings must be smaller than a quarter. Adornments that are attached to exposed body parts other than the ears are not permitted. (For example: an adornment attached to the tongue, lip, eyebrow or nose is not permitted).

Miscellaneous: Sweatbands and bandanas may not be worn anywhere on the body at any time.

The administration retains the right to review student attire and grooming on an as-needed basis.

Any infraction of the dress and grooming policy which a teacher or administrator feels disrupts the flow of education will be addressed. Should any student choose to dress or groom inappropriately according to the school's dress and grooming code, he/she may be required to remain out of the classroom until a parent comes to school to correct the situation. Repeated dress or grooming code violations will be considered insubordination and will be addressed through the student code of conduct.