



Southwest Middle School

2015 California Gold Ribbon School

Home of the Buccaneers

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"Your next best step for a promising future!"



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Southwest Middle School's Dress Code Policy for 2021-2022

Dear parents and students,

The mission of Southwest Middle (SOM) is to provide our students a safe space where they can be afforded a world-class education that prepares them for college and career. SOM does not require students to be in a traditional uniform but we do enforce a Dress Code policy. SOM must be a safe place for students to learn and work. Our responsibility as a school is to ensure that students are free from harassment and intimidation. Students are required to wear clothes that are neat in appearance and appropriate for school (CA Title V, Sec. 3022; SUHSD Policy 5132). Attire should protect the health and safety of the students. Our dress code at Southwest Middle School has been established to provide and model guidelines for student attire in a public-school while being sensitive towards our students' diverse backgrounds. We realize that students are returning to school during a time period where the weather tends to be warmer than usual; however, attire still must follow the guidelines stated below.

A student may not remain in the classroom dressed in a manner which:

1. Creates a health or safety hazard for the student
2. Constitutes a serious or unnecessary distraction to the learning process
3. Tends to disrupt the campus order

If there are any questions as to whether a particular item is appropriate for school, an administrator will make the final decision.

"Sweetwater Union High School District programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on age, gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information, sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics." SUHSD Board Policy 0410

THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES WILL BE ENFORCED ON THE SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS:

1. Clothing with gang writing or affiliation is not allowed.
2. Sunglasses, hats, and head coverings (unless for religious or health reasons) are not allowed during class time or assemblies without permission from the teacher or administrator.
3. Attire and accessories which advocate, advertise or display any type of discriminatory wording or graphic, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, sexually explicit, violence, provocative, graffiti tagging themes or acts which are illegal, obscene, or hazardous to one's health are not allowed. Graffiti or spray painting on any part of clothing is not allowed.
4. Attire, including clothing, jewelry and other accessories, which is a safety hazard to the wearer or others, is not allowed.
5. Undergarments (ie. bra and muscle tank tops) should not show.
6. Attire cannot show the midsection and chest region.
7. No lounge wear or pajamas

TOPS-SHIRTS/SWEATERS:

1. Cannot be sheer or see-thru, unless an appropriate undershirt or tank top is worn underneath.
2. Cannot be strapless or have spaghetti straps (cannot show bra straps).
3. Cannot have inappropriate graphics, logos, etc.
4. No bare mid drift or low cut/crop tops.
5. No tops that reveal undergarments (ie. bras or muscle tank tops).

BOTTOMS-PANTS, SKIRTS, SKORTS, SHORTS, ETC.:

1. Cannot be sheer or see-thru
2. Denim jeans are allowed, should be in good condition and not revealing; no ripped jeans or holes allowed
3. Skirts, skorts (skirt/short combination), shorts must not be shorter than two (2) inches above the knee or mid-thigh length
4. Pants must be the appropriate size, worn at the waist. No chains from belt to pocket are permitted.
5. No sagging bottoms

DRESSES:

1. Cannot be sheer or see-thru, unless an appropriate undershirt or tank top is worn underneath.
2. Cannot be strapless or have spaghetti straps (cannot show bra straps), unless a sweater (cardigan) or jacket is worn on top at ALL times.
3. Cannot have inappropriate graphics, logos, etc.
4. No bare mid-drift or low-cut tops.
5. No dress that reveal undergarments.
6. No tight, body-hugging dresses.
7. Dresses must not be excessively short or revealing.
8. If you are unsure if your dress is too short, make sure you wear leggings or pants underneath.

SHOES & ACCESSORIES:

1. Shoes and/or **sturdy sandals** must be worn at all times.
2. Shoes should be suitable for the school activities in which students participate in.
3. Sock-like footwear, corduroy slippers, sliders, flip-flops and other type of slippers are not appropriate and are not allowed due to safety.
4. Neck ties/bow ties must not have inappropriate graphics, logos, etc.

HEAD COVERINGS, HAT, BEANIE, VISOR, and HOOD POLICY

In accordance with California Senate Bill 310 and the State Education Code,

1. All head covering must adhere to the dress code policy.
2. Hats and hoods may not be worn inside classrooms or other campus buildings unless given permission by the teacher.
3. Inappropriate head covered which violates any of the dress code policies mentioned will be confiscated and, upon request, returned to parents by the Assistant Principal.
4. Southwest Middle School hat regulations are in effect before school and during the school day.

CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW DRESS GUIDELINES

- If your child is deemed to be inappropriately dressed, they will be referred to the main office by staff and required to change into more appropriate attire provided by either the parent or the school. In addition, students may receive additional consequences for each instance they are not appropriately dressed.
- **Consistent defiance of dress guidelines will result in disciplinary action such as a detention, Saturday School assignment, parent conference or, if the problem persists, suspension.**
- All students are expected to follow SOM school dress standards at all times, including spirit weeks and school sponsored activities (dances, performing events, etc.).