

Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School

Dress Code 2009-2010

The purpose of having a dress code is to encourage students to focus on the learning process without the distractions of unsuitable dress and grooming. Research has shown that there is a connection between student dress and student behavior. Students shall maintain a clean, orderly appearance at all times.

The PLDMS dress code is consistent with the School District dress code found in the *Student Code of Conduct, Grade 6-12*. Individual schools also have the authority to establish additional requirements. Our school dress code for the 2009-2010 school year provides guidance to help students make reasonable choices, addresses issues of safety, and supports and enhances a positive learning environment conducive to learning.

Students must be in dress code compliance upon entering school grounds, during after-school events, and at all times while on campus. *The responsibility for the personal appearance of the student rests with the parent and/or guardian*. Repeated, purposeful violations of the PLDMS dress code will be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines established in the *Student Code of Conduct, Grade 6-12*.

For the 2009-2010 school year, the following information establishes the minimum acceptable standards for student dress to be interpreted and enforced by the administration and staff at Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School:

TOPS / SHIRTS

- ✓ Must fit modestly, not too loose or too tight.
- ✓ Must be a solid, striped, or plaid oxford or polo style shirt with a collar, sleeves, and buttons. Logos must be no larger than a half dollar.
- ✓ Must be tucked in at all times. Shirts that are too short to remain tucked in are not permitted.
- ✓ Collared shirts must not be covered by any outer garment, other than those listed in cold weather wear.
- ✓ Must provide adequate coverage in order to be considered appropriate for school.
- ✓ Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School t-shirts, sold at the school store, may be worn, tucked in, on Spirit Days.

PANTS / BOTTOMS

- ✓ Must fit modestly, not too loose or too tight.
- ✓ Must be worn at the natural waistline and properly fastened at all times.
- ✓ Must wear a belt if pants are loose fitting. Excessively baggy pants are not permitted. Undergarments must not be visible.

SHORTS / SKIRTS / SKORTS

- ✓ Must fit modestly, not too loose or too tight.
- ✓ Must be worn at the natural waistline and properly fastened at all times.
- ✓ Must not be more than 3 inches above the knee.
- ✓ Must be adequate in both length and coverage to be considered appropriate for school.
- ✓ Must wear a belt if shorts/skort are loose fitting. Excessively baggy shorts/skort are not permitted. Undergarments must not be visible.

DRESSES

- ✓ Must be collared with sleeves.
- ✓ Must fit modestly, not too loose or too tight.
- ✓ Must not be more than 3 inches above the knee.
- ✓ Must be adequate in both length and coverage to be considered appropriate for school.

COLD WEATHER WEAR

- ✓ Sweaters, jackets, cardigans, or sweatshirts that zip or button down the front are permitted over appropriate collared shirt. These must remain unzipped and open at all times while on campus.
- ✓ Solid, striped, or plaid pull-over sweatshirts and sweaters without hoods may be worn over appropriate collared shirt as long as dress code collar remains visible.

SHOES

- ✓ Must be worn at all times.
- ✓ Must not include: backless shoes, flip-flops, bedroom slippers, beach sandals, wheelies, heels more than 2" high, or any other footwear considered unsafe.

HEADWEAR / HAIR

- ✓ The wearing of hats, hoods, caps, bandannas, grooming combs, headgear, or sunglasses, except in conjunction with authorized athletic practices or activities, is prohibited. There may be certain exceptions for medical conditions (with a doctor's note) and when physical education classes are held outside.
- ✓ Hair is to be neat and well-groomed. Hairstyles or hair colors that are distracting or disruptive to the learning environment will not be allowed.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Articles of clothing, jewelry, or adornments that could likely cause injury—such as chains, bracelets, rings, chokers with or without spikes, or studs—are prohibited. Wallet chains of any length are prohibited.
- ✓ Apparel, emblems, insignias, badges, or symbols that promote the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any other illegal activity are prohibited.
- ✓ Apparel or symbols which may be gang-related may not be displayed on a student, on or in a student's locker, on any item belonging to a student, or any other locations on campus.
- ✓ Adornments attached or pierced to exposed body parts, other than the ears, are prohibited. Examples of prohibited adornments include, but are not limited to, objects attached or pierced to the tongue, nose, eyebrows, cheeks, lips, and teeth.
- ✓ Clothing with slogans or advertising which, by its controversial or obscene nature, disrupts the educational setting is prohibited.