

Dress for Success!

Dakota is committed to helping students develop the skills necessary to thrive in a competitive work environment and global society. Part of this preparation is creating a professional culture that reinforces a variety of career and college ready skills. The challenge we embrace is teaching students to understand the difference between social and professional attire. Students are required to dress in school appropriate, modest and respectful attire. **School personnel reserve the right to judge new fashion trends and determine whether the newest fad is appropriate for school.**

- Dress code violations are viewed as distracting from a positive and secure school climate and students will be required to change clothing before returning to class. **Absences from classes due to dress code violations will be considered unexcused absences.** Please consult the Chippewa Valley Schools Secondary School Code of Conduct for important information regarding the consequences that students may be subject to for accumulating unexcused absences.
- Dress and grooming are the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian.
 - Students must be clean and well-groomed
 - Shoes must be worn at all times
- Any fashion (dress, accessory, hair style) that disrupts the educational process or presents a safety risk (sharp or pointed/projectile items) will not be permitted. If a student has selected a manner of appearance that is beyond mere freedom of expression and disrupts the educational process or presents risk to themselves or others, he/she may be removed from the educational setting.
- Dress and grooming must not be hazardous to any educational activity, nor may it be damaging to property, sexually offensive or violate reasonable standards of safety, health, hygiene or decency.
- School authorities reserve the right to prohibit and regulate any items of clothing or personal possessions which are, or could be, unsafe, unhealthy, or disruptive to the regular routine of the school. Examples follow:
 - No clothing/garment/jewelry/tattoos can be worn while on the grounds or in the building which advertise tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
 - Designs/pictures/symbols and language are not allowed if they are sexually suggestive or vulgar/profane.
 - Designs/pictures/symbols/language on clothing that defame or harass any person or group of people, promote deviant/violent/indecent behavior or state/suggest disloyalty to our country or school or other schools are not allowed.

The “fingertip” standard will guide many of the decisions regarding clothing items and whether or not they are permissible. Staff members will not use other standards or measurements, such as “mid thigh” length or other subjective criteria or opinions when evaluating whether shorts or skirts, or tops covering leggings, are of appropriate length. Although it is recognized that students’ arm and finger length do vary, the fingertip standard will be applied uniformly, as it has been found to be the most plainly observable, consistent and objective measure in making decisions as to whether an article of clothing is permissible.

- **Jeans/sweats/pants:** Must NOT have tears/rips/fraying above the student’s fingertips that exposes skin while he/she is standing with arms at their side. All jeans/sweats/pants must be worn at the waist. No undergarments or shorts can be exposed.

- **Dresses/skirts/shorts/skorts:** Must be longer (**ALL THE WAY AROUND**) than the student's fingertips while he/she is standing or walking with arms at their side. Shirts tied around the waist do not make dresses, skirts, shorts or skorts compliant. Shorts must be worn at the waist. No undergarments can be showing.
- **Yoga pants:** Must have flared legs. Yoga pants that are capri length must also have a flare. The flared legs must be visible and not tucked into boots.
- **Leggings/tights/bike shorts:** "Bike shorts" are not permitted. Leggings and tights are NOT considered appropriate school attire unless they are worn with a top of appropriate length extending beyond fingertip length as described above. Skirts, dresses, shorts or skorts worn with leggings or tights must be longer (all the way around) than the student's fingertips while he/she is standing or walking with arms at their side.
- **Shirts/tops:** Shirts and tops must cover the area between the student's shoulder and the side of the neck. Material covering the shoulder/neck area must span at least the width of three fingers. Tank tops, sleeveless sports jerseys and "muscle shirts" are not permitted. Shirts must also not expose the waistline/midsection, the sides under the arms, or the back. **"Crop tops" can be especially problematic and are discouraged due to the likelihood of a student's natural movements resulting in the exposure of the midriff.** Low cut tops are not permitted. Tops may not expose any cleavage and must cover all undergarments, including bra straps for female students. Shirts must not be excessively unbuttoned.
- The following are **prohibited** from school and school related activities:
 - tank tops, muscle shirts, halter/tube tops, mesh shirts, exposed undergarments, see-through materials, cut-offs, slippers, sunglasses, head scarves, sweat bands, bandanas, chains
- All **hats, gym bags, backpacks and overcoats** are prohibited from being worn and/or carried while in the school building.
 - **Back packs** are not allowed in the halls or classrooms after first hour begins. Due to safety and crowding concerns, only draw string bags are permitted in the halls or classrooms.
 - **Hats/Hoods** are to be **removed immediately upon entering the building** and can only be worn after exiting the building.
 - **Coats** may be worn upon arrival and when leaving the building. They cannot be worn or carried to class without an administrative pass.
 - **Hats/coats** can be confiscated without warning and returned only as specified by the administration.
- Athletes that are wearing team uniforms to school must adhere to the dress code. If, for example, a skirt or short length is not within the requirements of the dress code, the athlete should be prepared to wear team sweats with the skirt or shorts while in school.
- Students who are representing Dakota High School at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements. Usually, this applies to athletic teams, cheerleaders, bands, and other such groups.
- The above provisions apply to all regular school, school related activities, home or away, in the building and on the school's grounds. **Disciplinary action will be taken for any violation of these guidelines. Consequences range from detention to suspension for multiple violations.**