

No New Dress Code at EMS; Just Clarified Expectations

Contrary to rumor, there is no new dress code at East Middle School. The dress code is the same as it was at the beginning of the school year and is the same code that is in place at West Middle School, and Brownsburg High School. The dress code guidelines are published in our student handbook which is available online ([CLICK HERE](#)), or you may click [HERE](#) for a copy of our dress code. There are no surprises for students or parents.

The counselors and the administrators met with the 8th grade girls in attempt to review and clarify dress code expectations. With new fads coming and going all the time, students often have legitimate questions about what is dress code appropriate and what isn't. Instead of trying to answer all the questions on an individual basis, the decision was made to address questions in a large group. The main three dress code items addressed were the following:

- Pants—Tight fitting pants are prohibited regardless of fabric type; such as Jeggings and yoga/exercise pants.
- Holes in pants—There are to be no holes in pants higher than 4" above the knee.
- Shirt Necklines—Necklines are to be modest meaning they should be no lower than 3" below the collar bone.

Again, the above mentioned items are not new. We thank you for partnering with us in this matter.



The holes in these are too high on the thigh.



These jeans are okay, as holes are at the knee and meet the 4" rule.

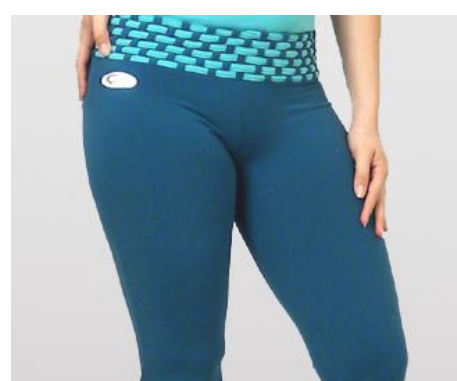


This shirt does not meet the modest guideline.

This neckline meets the modesty guideline.



This is an example of Jeggings. Cotton pants that are tight fitting are also prohibited unless worn with a shirt, skirt, or shorts that meet the 4" rule.



This is an example of exercise pants.

Most of our students dress very appropriately for school every day, and we appreciate their efforts. We view school as a place of work for our students. The desire is to have our students focused and ready each day. Dressing for success each day is a part of being responsible, respectful, and ready to learn. Dress is a way our students practice for life beyond school. We understand that fashion trends make it difficult to purchase school appropriate clothing. Thank you for your extra attention to this matter.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism or destruction of private or school property • Participation in gang related activities • Violation of appearance code • Displaying Public Affection • Disrespecting a staff member • Cafeteria misconduct • Refusal or failure to comply with state attendance law(s) IC 20-8.1-3-17, 18 and/or IC 20-8.3-31, 33 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a statement that could result in widespread fear or panic even if its intent was a joke • Violation of the Honest Code • Failing to report terroristic actions, plans, or threats of another person that could result in harm to another person(s) or property • Use or possession of tobacco products, lighters, matches, and smoking or drug paraphernalia • Lying to a staff member • Gambling • Skipping class or truancy
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Dressing and Grooming

While the major responsibility for good grooming rests in the home with the student and parents, the school has certain concerns based on consideration of health, safety, and the maintenance of the school atmosphere that promotes study and learning. Reasonable conformity to current fashions in student dress is to be expected and is appropriate; however, when student appearance becomes extreme and, in the considered opinion of the school administration, violates health or safety regulations, is not in keeping with appropriate dress for school, or violates commonly accepted standards of modesty; such appearance is not acceptable. If a student has selected a manner of appearance that disrupts the educational process or presents risk to themselves or others, they may be removed from the educational setting.

The following statements are provided as guidelines to promote understanding of a few areas of concern:

Any apparel showing suggestive or profane pictures or wording; showing alcohol, tobacco, or drug-related sayings or pictures; promoting sex, violence or self-destructive behavior; or any item that defames the nation, state, community or an individual will not be permitted.

- ✚ Tight-fitting or excessively short shorts, skirts, or tight fitting pants such as spandex, are not permitted at anytime. If leggings are worn they must have a shirt/sweater to cover that is no shorter than 4 inches above the knee. All shorts/skirts/dresses must not be shorter than 4 inches above the knee.
- ✚ Clothing should be so constructed and worn in a manner that is not unduly revealing. Tops that may NOT be worn are tank tops, muscle shirts, tube tops, halter tops, backless shirts, tops with spaghetti straps, sheer or fishnet shirts, and cut-offs or other tops which show midriff. Plunging neck lines and excessive exposure is not acceptable. Our gauge for necklines will be 3"; the length of a standard business card.
- ✚ Clothing with group markings, same color clothing or accessories symbolizing gang membership will not be tolerated.
- ✚ Proper footwear must be worn at all times in the school buildings.
- ✚ Belts and overall straps must be fastened
- ✚ Metal studded clothing, spiked jewelry or chains are not acceptable.
- ✚ Coats and jackets must be stored in your locker and not worn to class or in the hallway.
- ✚ Sunglasses are not to be worn in the building.
- ✚ Hats, headbands, bandanas, are not to be worn in the building and are to be kept in assigned lockers.
- ✚ Students who wear hooded sweatshirts are not permitted to wear the hoods.
- ✚ All shirts/tops must have a sleeve that covers the shoulder and be long enough to be able to have enough material, two inches, to be tucked into pants/shorts. Clothing that is suggestive, has a double meaning or innuendo, or suggests an inappropriate idea is unacceptable.

- ✚ Pants and shorts should not have tears or rips 4 inches above the knee.
- ✚ Shoes with wheels are not permitted.
- ✚ Attire that may damage school property or cause personal injury such as spikes or chains may not be worn.
- ✚ Clothing should be worn so that the midriff is never exposed.
- ✚ No undergarments should be visible (male or female) whether standing or sitting. Sagging pants or shorts are not permitted (waist line level at all times).
- ✚ Pants must not drag the floor, as this presents concerns regarding safety.
- ✚ Any new "fads" in clothing or anything not specifically covered in the above guidelines, which is considered inappropriate dress shall be dealt with at the discretion of an administrator/designee

If there are any questions as to the appropriateness of any type of clothing, the school should be contacted in advance.

In the event inappropriate clothing is worn or displayed, it is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements to immediately remedy the situation. Students will be sent to their respective grade level office until appropriate clothing is obtained (t-shirts will be available in the office); students will not be permitted to leave the school to obtain appropriate clothing.

Problems Related to Possessions

The following are examples. The list is not exclusionary.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cellular phones (To avoid problem situations, all phones should remain powered off and out of sight during school hours and may only be used when requested by the teacher for educational purposes or in declared emergencies.) • Laser pointers • Cigarettes and Tobacco 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radios/CD players/Electronic equipment (To avoid problem situations, electronic devices should remain in lockers and be powered off during school hours.) • BBs, bullets, or pellets • Non-prescribed over-the-counter medications (see OTC policy)
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DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The purpose of these rules is to prevent and/or address issues of misconduct, disobedience, and disruptiveness. The school can impose a variety of consequences for failure to adhere to these expectations. Consequences may include:

- **Conference** – A conference may be between a teacher and a student, a teacher and a parent, an administrator and a student, or an administrator and parents. The school will arrange conferences in an effort to correct behavior when deemed necessary.
- **Referral to Guidance** – A referral will require the student to have a conference with his/her counselor to help find ways to correct a problem that is occurring.
- **Peer Mediation**—Students will resolve student to student conflicts with the assistance of a trained student peer mediator.
- **Teacher-Assigned Detention** – The location, time, and work to be completed will be determined by each teacher.
- **After-school Detention** –Students may be detained in school for disciplinary or other reasons, under direct supervision of a teacher, for not more than one hour after the close of the school day, provided that satisfactory arrangements for transportation and supervision from school to home have been made by the parents. Before a student may be detained, the parents, and/or legal guardian, must be notified as to the reason for such detention, the place, the date, and the time of the detention.