

**Whale Branch
Middle School Uniform
Information**

(Approved by Beaufort County Board of Education on February 17, 2009.)

Requirements

A. Shirts, Sweaters, and Sweatshirts (Tops)

- (1) Tops may be a solid color of royal blue, black or white. During colder months, students may also wear sweatshirts with the Whale Branch logo.
- (2) Students must wear plain shirts with a collar. Mock turtlenecks, turtlenecks, and sweaters are also acceptable.
- (3) Shirts may be plain or have school-approved logos. No other logos depicting a brand name are allowed.
- (4) Shirts may not exceed one size larger or smaller than the current, appropriately fitting size.
- (5) Shirts must be tucked in.
- (6) White T-shirts may be worn under uniform shirts.
- (7) Whale Branch Spirit-Wear T-Shirts (available through the PTO) may be worn on Fridays with Khaki, Navy blue or Black bottoms.

B. Pants, Skirts, Skorts, Jumpers, Capri Length Pants, and Shorts (Bottoms)

- (1) Bottoms may be solid khaki, navy blue or black. Bottoms may have an elastic waistline or belt-loops.
- (2) Belts must be worn if pants, skirts, skorts or shorts have belt loops. Belt buckles must not be oversized, computerized or have any writing that is considered offensive.
- (3) Bottoms must be free of graphics and embroidery. With the exception of small labels, bottoms may not have insignias, words or pictures.
- (4) Clothing may not exceed one size larger or smaller than the current, appropriately fitting size. Baggy or sagging pants or shorts are not permitted. "Low rise" clothing is not permitted. Pants, shorts, and skirts must be worn at the natural waistline.
- (5) Shorts, skirts, skorts, and jumpers shall be modest and of sufficient length. The length of these articles of clothing shall be no shorter than three (3) inches above the top of the knee when standing. Shorts for boys must be at or above the knee, not below the knee.
- (6) Cargo-style pants or shorts are not permitted.
- (7) Jeans are not permitted. Principals may make exceptions for a specific group or a special designated day, which will be announced in advance.

Coats and Jackets (Outerwear)

- (1) Outerwear may not be worn inside the school building during the school day. (The principal and/or the principal's designee may make an exception if the building/classroom is unusually cold.)
- (2) Outerwear may be worn during a class change if the student is exiting or entering the building after being outside.
- (3) Outerwear will be placed in the student's locker.

C. Shoes, Sneakers, and Boots (Footwear)

- (1) Footwear must be worn at all times. Shoes shall conform to special requirements, such as P.E. or Dance classes – shoes that allow for safe movement, running, playing, etc.
- (2) Laces on shoes or sneakers must be tied.
- (3) Flip flops, crocs, or slippers are not permitted.
- (4) Heelies are not permitted.

D. Other Clothing Items or Accessories

- (1) Students may not wear large pendants or medallions. Pendants or medallions are not to be any larger than one inch in diameter.
- (2) Any adornment that could be perceived as, or used as, a weapon such as chains, spikes, etc. is not permitted.
- (3) Gang-related clothing, accessories, symbols or intimidating items of dress, as identified by local law enforcement agencies, are not permitted.
- (4) Head coverings of any kind, including but not limited to hats, caps, bandanas, curlers, masks, visors, kerchiefs, athletic sweatbands, earmuffs or sunglasses are not permitted. Head coverings shall not be worn, carried, hung on belts or around the neck or kept in classrooms during regular school hours.

Other Uniform Requirements

- (1) Students are expected to be dressed according to the uniform standards at all times when school is in session.
- (2) Principals may make exceptions to the uniform policy for special events, such as picture day, and may allow a different standard for athletic teams or other clubs or activities.
- (3) Clothing designed for school athletic events, such as cheerleader outfits, that do not meet the above guidelines shall not be worn during the instructional day unless appropriate additional garments are worn with the outfit.

Enforcements

- (1) **First Offense:** Students shall be informed that they have violated the policy. They shall be given an opportunity to change into acceptable clothing by using available clothes at school or by calling a parent/guardian to bring clothes. If neither of these options is used, students may be placed in in-school suspension alternative setting for the remainder of the day.
- (2) **Second Offense:** A second infraction of the policy shall be considered as defiance. In addition to the disciplinary actions available for a first offense, a parent/guardian conference shall be held.
- (3) **Third Offense and Additional Offenses:** A third or additional infraction of the dress code shall be categorized as a Level 1 Offense as outlined in the Beaufort County School District Code of Student Conduct, subject to the consequences outlined therein, including out-of-school suspension.

Disciplinary action may vary when a student has a record of other student conduct violations during a current school year.

Students who do not comply with the dress code may be excluded from participating in certain extracurricular school programs. Copies of the dress code shall be made available to students and parents.

Reasonable consideration shall be made for those students who, because of a sincerely held religious belief or medical reason, request a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance. The waiver request shall be in writing from the parent or guardian and approved by the principal and/or principal's designee on an annual basis. In considering a waiver request, the principal and/or principal's designee has the right to request additional documentation from medical officials and/or religious leaders.

New students to the school may be given a two-week grace period from enrollment to obtain and wear the proper school uniforms.