



# Kalkaska High School

*Principal, Staci Short  
Assistant Principal, Aaron Ostrander  
Director of Athletics, Bryan Hawkins*

## **DRESS EXPECTATIONS**

### **Our Philosophy and Beliefs**

- The dress code for students attending Kalkaska Public Schools supports equitable educational access.
- Students should be able to dress comfortably for school and engage in the educational environment without fear of discipline or body shaming
- Students should dress appropriately for the setting, display legal and age appropriate promotional materials, display symbols and saying that are safe and non-threatening for everyone
- School staff should support a positive school environment that focuses on the development of the whole child without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement
- The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s)
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression

### **Our Basic Principles**

- Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Clothes must be worn in a way such that buttocks, pelvic region, and chest are fully covered with opaque fabric.
- Students **MUST** wear
  - A shirt (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms) **AND**
  - Pants/Jeans or the equivalent (shirt, sweatpants, leggings, dress, shorts, etc.) **AND**
  - Shoes

### **The following clothing DOES NOT violate dress expectations:**

- Religious headwear
- Hoodie sweatshirts as long as the hood is off
- Leggings, yoga pants and "skinny jeans"
- Pajama pants
- Ripped jeans
- Tank tops with straps
- Athletic attire
- Visible waistbands on undergarments or visible straps on undergarments worn under other clothing

**The following clothing VIOLATES dress expectations:**

- Hats, hoods, bandanas, or other head coverings that are not religious in nature.
- Racist messaging, images, or symbols (e.g., swastika, Confederate flag, etc.) on all clothing and accessories
- Violent language, non-sportsman weapons or graphic images
- Images or language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, vaping or paraphernalia (or any illegal item or activity)
- Bullet proof vest, body armor, tactical gear, or facsimile
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography
- Images or language that create a hostile or intimidating environment including but not limited to any protected classes as defined by board policy.
- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed)
- Swimsuits
- Sleep wear or sleep wear accessories such as blankets and slippers
- Long coats (trench style) or other garments that could conceal a large weapon
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon
- Any item that obscures the face (except as personal protective equipment (PPE) or as a religious observance)

**Dress Code Implementation**

- School staff will have conversation with the student who is not adhering to the dress expectations to discuss the standards. The conversation with the student will be restorative in nature.
- School administration may direct students to change clothing or contact home for a change of clothes. Refusal to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- These dress codes shall apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as any school related events and activities, such as graduation ceremonies, dances and prom.

***SCHOOL DANCE DRESS EXPECTATIONS***

While School dances are an opportunity for students to express themselves and their sense of style, please remember that students are attending a school function, not a nightclub or private party. The ages of students attending these dances range from 13-20, making appropriate and somewhat modest attire a must.

- a. Good taste and appropriate attire will be expected. Any student wearing clothing that is deemed too revealing or inappropriate for the school function environment will be asked to change or leave the event.
- b. Clothing deemed mutilated or vulgar in style/design is prohibited. Example: clothing promoting alcohol, drugs, tobacco, marijuana, racially charged symbols, etc.
- c. Undergarments may not be visible. Any part of the body normally covered by undergarments may not be visible.
- d. Bare midriffs exposing the navel are prohibited.
- e. Plunging necklines exposing excessive cleavage are prohibited.
- f. Footwear is required.