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## UNIFORM POLICY

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### **SECTION 1. BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY**

#### **MISSION**

The mission of Ben Franklin Academy is to develop young adults with character like America's founding Renaissance man, Benjamin Franklin: well-read, scientifically curious, and civically engaged.

#### **VISION**

Our students will excel academically through a challenging, sequenced curriculum that emphasizes math, science, and literacy. We will be a data driven institution, focusing on individual students. Our students, teachers, parents, staff, and leaders will be held accountable for the success of our school. Finally, we recognize that an education is incomplete without fostering the arts, sports, nature, and character.

#### **PURPOSE**

The learning environment can be influenced by students' attire. The purpose of the Uniform Policy is to promote learning by reducing distraction, disruptions and disciplinary problems. The policy also promotes student pride in themselves and their school. This policy is intended to promote uniformity of dress. Students are required to adhere to these standards.

#### **Section 1.01 Grooming and General Guidelines**

Students are required to arrive at school properly and neatly attired. Uniforms are mandatory and should be worn as the manufacturer intended. Uniforms must be purchased from Educational Outfitters ([www.educationaloutfitters.com](http://www.educationaloutfitters.com)). The acceptable school uniform can be found by reviewing the Ben Franklin Academy Uniform Standards for All Students and Additional Uniform Standards for Girls. Clothing which is oversized, undersized, excessively baggy, tight, or revealing is not acceptable. Uniforms are required to be in good repair. Under no circumstances may students write on, cut up, defame or add to their uniforms.

#### *Hair*

Hair shall be clean, neatly groomed, evenly cut, a natural hair color and follow the natural shape of the head. No distracting or disruptive hairstyles or colors will be permitted. No beads, yarn, fabric, or other items may be braided into hair. Girls may wear color-coordinated hair accessories. Boys' and girls' bangs cannot be longer than the eyebrows in front. Boys' hair shall not extend below the top of the shirt collar in back or below the bottom the earlobes on the sides, and shall not be worn in a ponytail, Mohawk, oiled, or

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# BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY

spiked. Side burns shall not extend below the bottom the earlobe. Beards or mustaches shall not be worn.

## *Hats*

At no time will hats, caps, bandanas, or visors be permitted for either boys or girls.

## *Jewelry*

Jewelry and accessories are acceptable as long as they are conservative and in keeping with the type and color of the uniform. Girls may wear one post or small (1/2") hoop per ear, without dangles or charms. Girls or boys may wear one each of the following items: simple necklace (not large or bulky), bracelet, ring, or watch. Boys shall not wear earrings.

## *Makeup and Nail Polish*

Girls may wear nail polish in a single color for all fingers of both hands, in clear or pale pink. For sixth graders and beyond, girls ONLY may wear lightly applied mascara (brown or black), blush (pale neutral or pale pink), and lip gloss (clear or pale pink). Boys shall not wear makeup.

## *Body Art*

At no time shall tattoos of any kind be allowed on the face, hands, arms, legs, or any other exposed skin. Exposed body parts shall not be pierced, except as allowed for girls' earrings (see Jewelry above).

## *Pants*

Pants must fit properly and shall not ride lower than the natural waist, fit neither too loose or tight, not visibly flared, must be no longer than the sole of the shoe, and no shorter than 2" above the ankle bone. Jeans, sweatpants, athletic wear, cargo-type clothing, corduroy, capris, and leggings are not acceptable.

## *Shirts*

Collared shirts shall always be worn, even when sweatshirts, sweaters, and jumpers are also worn. Undershirts must be tucked in and not visible at any time.

## *Shoes*

Shoes must be closed-toe with backs. Students may not wear sandals, flip-flops, "wheelies", or clogs. Shoes must be tied in a traditional manner and must stay on the heels when walking. Multicolored laces are not allowed. Shoes must meet the uniform standard on all school days with the exception that shoes may have patterns on Dress of Choice Days.

## *Outerwear (Boys and Girls)*

Snow boots may be worn to school or during recess in inclement weather. Boots must be removed in designated areas within the school building and replaced with shoes.

## **SECTION 2. EXCEPTIONS**

Organizational uniforms such as Boy Scouts and Girls Scout Uniforms may be worn in place of, or in addition to, the Ben Franklin Academy Uniform on spirit days. If the

Organizational Uniform does not include all clothing elements, (i.e. no specified pant/skirt), the applicable Ben Franklin Academy component should be worn with the Organizational Uniform components.

Temporary exceptions to the clothing requirements of this policy may be granted by the Principal for hardship, as an individual reward, based on family circumstance (i.e. funeral), for medical or religious reasons, or as part of the Dress of Choice day. Exceptions to the clothing requirements of this policy shall not include exceptions to the student grooming standards set forth herein, unless expressly authorized by the Principal. Upon request, reasonable accommodations in the Uniform Policy shall be made by the Principal for students with disabilities or religious convictions which conflict with the code.

### **SECTION 3. DRESS OF CHOICE (DOC)**

Dress of Choice Days shall be scheduled periodically as a reward for those students who have not received a single Uniform Policy Violation between the previous DOC day and the upcoming DOC day. Clothes worn by all the students during the Dress of Choice days shall be modest, in good condition, and neat in appearance. Students are not allowed to wear pajama items or clothing that contains wording or images that could be interpreted as racial, vulgar, or offensive in any way. Revealing clothes are not acceptable (i.e. tank tops, midriffs, sleeveless, etc.)

### **SECTION 4. SPIRIT DAYS**

Spirit Days shall be scheduled periodically. On Spirit Days students can wear spirit wear provided only by the Parent-Teacher Organization along with the rest of the uniform. These items include t-shirts with the official Ben Franklin Academy logo. Spirit Days shall be scheduled at the discretion of the Principal. For example, on a Spirit Day, a student may wear a T-shirt purchased through the PTO along with an approved pair of shorts.

### **SECTION 5. FORMAL UNIFORM / FIELD TRIP UNIFORM**

The first day of the school year and the first Wednesday of every month are Formal Uniform days. Other days throughout the school year may be designated a Formal Uniform day as determined by the Principal, and students and families will be notified ahead of time. All field trips will require the Formal Uniform.

The Formal Uniform for Boys and Girls is: White pique short or long sleeve polo with red Ben Franklin Academy logo and khaki pant, skirt, short, or skirt.

### **SECTION 6. UNIFORM STANDARDS**

The Uniform Standards Document listed at the Academy's website is incorporated herein by reference and shall be used as a guide for all uniform decisions.

**SECTION 7. UNIFORM VIOLATIONS**

Uniform violations shall be subjected to discipline as per the discipline policy.

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**POLICY HISTORY:**

Original: approved by the board May 31, 2011

Revision 1: approved by the board June 21, 2011

Revision 2: approved by the board July 5, 2011