



UNIFORM POLICY

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 Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) Uniform Policy is to promote learning by reducing distractions, disruptions and disciplinary problems. The policy also promotes students' pride in themselves and their school. This policy is intended to promote uniformity of dress. Students are required to adhere to these standards.

SECTION 2. 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). 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, deface 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

spiked. Side burns shall not extend below the bottom of 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 (1) post or small (1/2") hoop per ear, without dangles or charms. Girls or boys may wear one (1) 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, no neon colors. 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. Leggings worn as pants 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 closed heel. Students may not wear flip-flops, wheelies, cleats, light-up shoes, or shoes with a heel higher than one inch. Matching, single color laces must be tied in a traditional manner. Multicolored laces are not allowed. Shoes must meet the uniform standard on all school days. Please refer to uniform table for additional guidelines. If administration determines a shoe to be a distraction, the student and parent will be informed and that shoe will not be permitted at school.

Socks

Socks must be white, navy, red, tan, or black and match each other. Socks must be worn as intended. Logos or a single color stripe in white, red, navy, tan, or black are permissible.

Outerwear (Boys and Girls)

Snow boots may be worn to school or during recess in inclement weather. Please refer to the Uniform Table for specifics on footwear. All sweaters and sweatshirts must display the BFA logo while worn in the building and on field trips. These can be purchased through Educational Outfitters and the BFA PTO.

SECTION 3. EXCEPTIONS

Organizational Uniforms such as Boy Scouts and Girls Scout Uniforms may be worn in place of, or in addition to, the BFA Uniform on spirit days. If the Organizational Uniform does not include all clothing elements (i.e., no specified pant/skirt), the applicable BFA component should be worn with the Organizational Uniform components.

The principal and/or coach may allow different items to be worn for competitions or other social events. Under the direction of the principal, students may be allowed to wear “professional attire” to events such as Destination Imagination, Regional Science Fairs, etc. “Professional attire” for boys constitutes dress slacks, conservative button-up dress shirt, belt, dress shoes with an optional tie and optional suit jacket. For girls, it constitutes dress slacks or skirt, blouse with sleeves, one piece dress with sleeves, and dress shoes. Optional dress jacket, sweater and hose can also be worn. There is an emphasis on being modest, conservative and appropriate at such events to represent the school in a positive light. As such, skirts and dresses must not: be shorter than 4” above the knee, be excessively tight or loose, bare midriff, or have inappropriate designs or logos.

Students who are BFA athletic team members or on other BFA-sponsored teams/clubs or participating in electives with approved “uniforms” may be allowed to wear “professional attire”, the hooded athletic sweatshirt, or their athletic, team, club or elective uniform on designated days during school hours under the direction of the coach and principal. This exception will be on a “team-wide” basis so as to promote uniformity. BFA-sponsored team/club/elective uniforms and sweatshirts, unless they are navy or red and specifically approved by the principal as otherwise, are not approved daily uniform attire.

Temporary exceptions to the clothing requirements of this policy also 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 4. DRESS OF CHOICE (DOC)

Dress of Choice Days shall be scheduled periodically as a reward for those students who have not received two (2) Uniform Policy Violations between the previous DOC day and

the upcoming DOC day. Clothes worn by all the students during the DOC 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 5. SPIRIT DAYS

Spirit Days shall be scheduled periodically. On Spirit Days students can wear spirit wear provided by the Parent-Teacher Organization along with the rest of the uniform. These items include t-shirts with the official BFA 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. Other Spirit Wear includes t-shirts or sweatshirts purchased while playing a BFA sport at or a BFA Field Day shirt.

SECTION 6. 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: Blue short sleeve or long sleeve polo with the BFA logo and tan pants, skort, shorts, or skirt. A BFA sweater or sweatshirt may be worn over the formal uniform at any time, but must also be navy and bear the BFA logo. BFA athletic team wear is not permissible on Formal Uniform days.

SECTION 7. PICTURES

Pictures taken at registration are used for the yearbooks and must follow the Uniform Policy and grooming standards.

SECTION 8. UNIFORM STANDARDS

The Uniform Standards Document posted on BFA's website (www.bfacademy.org) is incorporated herein by reference and shall be used as a guide for all uniform decisions. However, the Uniform Standards tables shall not supersede the guidelines provided in this policy.

SECTION 9. UNIFORM VIOLATIONS

Uniform violations shall be subjected to discipline as per the Student Discipline Policy.

POLICY HISTORY:

Original: approved by the Board May 31, 2011

Revision 1: approved by the Board June 21, 2011

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