

River Oak Charter School
Student Dress Standards

River Oak Charter School believes that appropriate dress and behavior contribute to a productive learning environment. Students' clothing must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction, which would interfere with the educational process. Children need to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate including physical education. Students are expected to maintain personal cleanliness. **Education Code section 35183 states that schools have the authority to implement clothing requirements to maintain an effective learning environment and keep the focus of the classroom on learning. Behavior standards and dress code standards apply to all River Oak Charter School sponsored events as well as going to and from school, i.e., dances, concerts, open houses, festivals, graduation, etc.

A. General Dress Code List

1. Children should be provided with weather-appropriate outer clothing for outside play on inclement days, i.e., raincoat, boots, hats, mittens or gloves, etc.
2. Outer wear should be simple, modest, and not distracting to other students or adults.
 - a. Shirts and tank tops should cover the belly area, shouldn't be too low in the front, and should cover underwear, including bra straps. Sheer, see-through clothing is not allowed.
 - b. No spaghetti straps except over or under another shirt.
 - c. No mini-skirts or short-shorts. Skirts and shorts must be at least half way between knee and hip when sitting.
 - d. No pajamas are to be worn except on designated 'spirit days'.
3. Kindergarten students should leave all jewelry at home. Tasteful jewelry that is safe and not distracting is ok for grade students (no big rings or long dangling jewelry).
 - a. Visible body piercing other than ears is not allowed.
 - b. Gauges are not permitted.
 - c. Artificial nails and long nails that could be a safety hazard are not permitted.
 - d. Distracting color contacts are not allowed.
4. Wear comfortable, flat-soled shoes that are firmly attached to the feet (no flip-flops). It is recommended that students wear or keep available gym shoes.
5. Make-up is discouraged. K-6th grade students are not allowed to wear make-up. 7th & 8th grade students may wear light, tasteful make-up.
6. For grades K-5th hair color is not to be changed. For students in grade 6th – 8th hair color may be changed to colors that naturally appear on a human head (brunette, blonde, auburn, black). 7th and 8th grade students may have *non-distracting* color highlights. At Halloween, washout colors may be used. Also, it is highly recommended that parents research toxins absorbed through dye process.
7. Clothing, backpacks, lunchboxes, etc., should be free of references to drugs, alcohol, and violence. Clothing with media and advertisements is discouraged.
8. Hats are not to be worn in buildings. No other hair coverings, including hairnets or 'do' rags are to be worn on campus.
9. Any clothing that discriminates, persecutes, or is offensive to individuals because of gender, race, color, creed or religion is not allowed.
10. Baggy pants must cover the backside; they cannot be worn with boxer shorts as the real cover. Wallet chains longer than 12 inches are not allowed.
11. Any clothing that identifies a student as a gang member is not allowed. Refer to UUSD Guidelines that follow.

B. Gang-related apparel will not be allowed

The definition of “gang-related apparel” is limited to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the orderliness and security of the school environment, jeopardizing the health and safety of the students and others. We have respectfully adopted Ukiah Unified School District’s guidelines for this definition but reserve the right to intervene in other cases which are disruptive.

The governing board has determined that gang-related apparel is hazardous to the health and safety of the school environment. Therefore when on campus or at a school sponsored activity, students are prohibited from wearing or displaying any colors or apparel which could reasonably relate them to a gang. The Board has identified the following as being unsafe or disruptive and therefore not allowed.

1. Red/blue colored bandannas, bandanna belts, or any colored paisley bandannas.
2. Red or blue cotton braided belts; belt buckles with “N”, “S” or marijuana leaves.
3. Baseball caps with personalized monikers on sides or bills.
4. Red/blue baseball caps, athletic wear with large “N”, “S” letters.
6. Red or blue shoelaces.
7. Sport clothing with the numbers 13, 14, roman numerals, XIII, XIV, X4, X3.
8. Gang related tattoos (must be covered by shirts, Band-Aids).

C. Consequences

Our intent is to allow for creative self-expression in the context of conducting school. Our staff enforces this code as consistently as possible. We will ask parents to bring different clothes if children arrive at school inappropriately dressed or if children change into inappropriate clothes after arrival. ROCS wants students to be noticed and honored by who they are and what they do rather than by how they look or dress.

Students who refuse to change their clothing or continue to violate other parts of the behavior/dress standards will be seen as “disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of school officials” and are subject to suspension and expulsion policies and procedures.