

DSST: Byers HS Dress Code 21-22

Why do we have a dress code at Byers?

Physical Safety: We are committed to student safety and have crafted a Policy on Dress that reflects requirements necessary to keep students physically safe. For example, many of our students engage in science and engineering labs daily. Closed-toed shoes help protect against accidents and injuries that may result from chemical spills or heavy machinery. Shoes with an enclosed heel or strap are also best in case of an emergency evacuation.

Welcoming Community: At Byers, we strive to be a welcoming community where all people are known and valued. We know that the personal values of families and students may extend to their chosen dress. All students should be comfortable with what they can wear and how they express themselves in school. However, students should be sensitive to the fact that they are joining a diverse community and therefore work to ensure their dress does not alienate or harm others.

Building Habits of Success: Beginning each day with intention is something we believe sets all people up for success, regardless of their next steps after Byers. Dressing for school (vs. rolling out of bed and showing up dressed in PJs) is like a “Do Now” for your day: it creates an intentional point of transition that also shifts mindset, perspective, and supports readiness for engagement in the classroom.

Flexible: We want our dress code to reflect the world today, not 1, 5 or 100 years ago. We are always open to shifting our perspective given intentional feedback that expresses a clear need for change.

Dress-Code Basics

***Developed in 2021 by Seniors Kadidia Mariko, Kimberly Rascon, and Wafa Sulliman as part of their Senior Project.**

Tops

With the exception of pajamas, any top is permitted as long as it:

- does not depict drugs or alcohol
- does not include any derogatory content such as hate speech or profanity
- does not create a hostile or intimidating environment

What TO Wear:

- **Collared Tops** All shirts that have a collar are considered in the dress code.
- **Spirit/College Wear** All DSST Byers HS spirit wear or college spirit wear are in dress code.
- **T-Shirts** All are allowed as long as they are opaque and meet the safety criteria detailed above.
- **Outerwear** Track jackets, half zips, jean jackets, and hoodies are considered in the dress code. Hoods may not be worn up while in school.
- **Other** Shirts promoting sports, teams, bands, or anything similar are allowed as long as they meet the safety criteria outlined above (do not depict drugs or alcohol, do not include any derogatory content such as hate speech or profanity, and do not create a hostile or intimidating environment).

What NOT to Wear:

- Anything with images or language that depicts:
 - drugs, alcohol, or any other illegal items or activities
 - hate speech, profanity, or pornography
- Anything that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups

Bottoms

With the exception of pajamas, all bottoms are permitted as long as they:

- are made of an opaque materials (not see-through) and do not reveal genitals or underwear

What TO Wear:

Pants (including skirts, dresses) must always cover undergarments (cannot be see-through or sagging).

- **Jeans, sweatpants, leggings**
- **Shorts**
- **Dresses and skirts** Skirts and dresses may be worn if they are conducive to all school activities (sitting or kneeling on the floor, active electives, etc.).

What NOT to Wear:

- No sagging bottoms: bottoms must always be worn at or above waist level and never “sagging” below the waist. Undergarments should not be revealed.
- Shorts that are considered “booty shorts”; if your butt cheeks are visible, your shorts are too short.

Shoes

Shoes must be:

- closed-toed and have an enclosed heel or heel strap
- allow active participation in school programming and safe evacuation from the building in case of an emergency
- Slippers and slides are not permitted

What TO Wear:

- **Hard-soled, closed-toed shoes with an enclosed heel or heel strap** Any color/design are permitted. Shoes need to be sturdy and safe for lab participation and should have a hard sole.
- **Shoes of appropriate height and support** Shoes should be conducive to all school activities (active electives, labs, emergency situation, etc.).

What NOT to Wear:

- No open-toed shoes such as slippers or slides.

Other

- Text or images on clothing or accessories that depicts drugs or alcohol, includes derogatory content such as hate speech or profanity, or creates a hostile or intimidating environment in any way are not permitted at any time.
- Earrings and piercings are allowed.
- Tattoos may be visible as long as they:
 - do not depict drugs or alcohol
 - do not include any derogatory content such as hate speech or profanity
 - do not create a hostile or intimidating environment
- Scarves, hats and other headwear, such as do-rags, are permitted so long as they do not cover or obscure the wearer’s face, except by religious custom.
 - Students may wear baseball caps only with the bill facing backwards; students may not wear their hoods up.
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon are not permitted at any time.

Special Dress Days

“Special Dress-Code Additions” may occur for spirit weeks, themed dress-down days, and during presentations that require more professional attire.

PE & Fitness/Wellness Electives

All expectations (e.g. length and transparency of tops) are the same in PE & fitness/wellness electives as they are throughout the rest of the school day.

- Footwear: Students must wear socks and athletic shoes or sneakers.
- Gameday attire: Athletes are always permitted to wear gameday attire on game days.

Disclaimer

All final decisions about appropriate dress are at the discretion of the DSST: Byers High School Dean of Students, Associate School Director, and/or School Director. Individual staff members have discretion to set expectations beyond those outlined above in their individual classrooms and will share as part of their syllabi at the beginning of each year. We will communicate any ongoing clarifications transparently and openly with students and families.