

**Dress Code Letter – Secondary**  
**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ST. JOSEPH**  
**925 Felix Street**  
**St. Joseph, Missouri 64501**  
**Middle and High School**

Dear parent:

Staff members in the St. Joseph Public Schools are constantly striving to provide the best possible environment for student learning and achievement. Any condition, that distracts students from learning, is of serious concern.

This letter is designed to inform parents and students of the clothing guidelines. These standards will be administered consistently in all schools.

Student dress can have a significant effect on learning and behavior. Clothing must cover the body sufficiently and avoid attracting excessive attention or causing disruptions. The following have been found to be a distraction to the learning process and therefore are unacceptable for wearing in the secondary schools:

1. Messages on the body, clothing, jewelry, and personal belongings that relate to gangs, drugs, alcohol, violence, tobacco, sex, vulgarity or that reflect adversely upon persons because of all their race, sex, color, creed, national origin or ancestry
2. Gang related apparel...including long trench coats
3. Clothing that doesn't sufficiently cover the body including: tub tops, swimsuit, backless, halter or strapless tops, bare midriff, midcut shirts or tops, seethrough shirts or basketball jerseys that are cut low on the sides.
4. Excessively short skirts or shorts
5. Caps, hats or head coverings unless approved by the principal

For health and safety reasons, students must wear appropriate footwear. Sandals are acceptable if they are sufficiently safe and adequately secured to the feet.

**Building administrators reserve the right to request change of clothing when such interferes with the welfare and safety of all.**

We ask your cooperation and support in our effort to maintain the kind of school environment in which teachers are able to teach and students are able to learn. We believe the school is a place of business and that secondary school students must dress accordingly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Principal  
**APPROVED BY THE ST. JOSEPH BOARD OF EDUCATION**