

## JICA – DRESS CODE POLICY

**Approved by Fiddlehead Board May 16, 2024**

Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences believes in fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment where all students feel welcomed and respected. Fiddlehead School also values the creative expression and individuality of our students and appreciates that how students dress and present themselves to the world is an important mode of individual expression. We recognize that the responsibility and choice for student dress rests with individual students and their caregivers. Our dress code is designed to promote a sense of community, while ensuring a safe and distraction-free educational atmosphere. We embrace diversity and inclusivity, and our dress code reflects these values.

Students are encouraged to use sound judgment and demonstrate respect for themselves and others in their dress. Clothing, footwear, outerwear, and accessories are expected to be appropriate for the learning environment and activities, including outdoor learning and play in all seasons.

In order for Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences to provide a safe, healthy, and non-discriminatory environment for all students to learn and grow, the following dress code shall be enforced:

- A. Clothing shall cover a student's chest, genitals, and buttocks. Fabric covering chests, genitals, and buttocks must be opaque. Cleavage shall not have a coverage requirement.
- B. Articles of clothing that promote the use of weapons, violence, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or other drugs may not be worn on school grounds or at school functions. Clothing displaying offensive language, symbols, or images, including but not limited to those that promote violence, hate speech, or discrimination, is strictly prohibited.
- C. Clothing should promote a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. Articles of clothing with displays that are sexual, vulgar, lewd, or violent or include insulting words (e.g., racial/ethnic slurs) are prohibited.
- D. Students may be required to remove hats or hoods at certain times during the school day if it interferes with education, communication, or safety.
- E. Fiddlehead School supports the self-expression and identity of all students, irrespective of gender identity or expression. As such, students are free to dress in a manner consistent with their gender identity.
- F. Costumes and costume accessories are not permitted. Exceptions for class projects or celebrations may be made at the discretion of the administration.
- G. Clothing that presents a safety or maintenance concern, such as shoes with wheels or metal cleats, are not permitted. Students should be mindful that clothing must be appropriate for all scheduled classroom activities including active class games, outdoor activities, and science or art projects where unique hazards exist.
- H. Footwear must be worn at school and on the bus and must be appropriate to the educational environment or particular activity.

Any student not wearing appropriate attire will be reminded of the expectations and given the opportunity to change into clothing that meets the expectations listed in the dress code after the first instance of a violation. The school will make a good faith effort to keep on hand clean clothes in a wide variety of sizes so students who need to change clothes, for any reason, and do not have their own change of clothes can utilize this supply. As much as possible, these messages will be delivered to the student by a staff member who works closely with the student and delivered privately, respectfully, and in a way that does not further distract from the learning. Further violations will also require the student to change into clothing that meets the expectations in this policy, but may involve disciplinary action. If there is an ongoing issue with a student coming to school wearing clothing that does not meet the dress code, their parents may be contacted to assist the student in making clothing decisions. Though primarily managed by classroom staff, final determination for appropriate dress is at the discretion of administration within the guidance of this policy.

By adhering to these guidelines, we aim to create a learning environment that celebrates diversity, promotes mutual respect, and encourages individuality within the framework of a safe and inclusive community.