



Hancock County Board of Education

**"Barking our Way to New Beginnings...Lifelong!
Bulldog STRONG!"**

Ms. Miranda Wilson, Superintendent

10571 Highway 15 N Post Office Box 488 Sparta, Georgia 31087

Phone: (706) 444-5775 Fax: (706) 444-7026

www.hancock.k12.ga.us



Hancock County Schools Gear up for Students to Return to In-Person Instruction for the 2021-2022 School Year!

The Hancock County School District is anxious to invite students and families back into the buildings for the 2021-2022 school year! With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the Hancock County School District resorted to keeping its students, faculty, and staff safe by holding school virtually throughout the 2020-2021 school year. However, the Hancock County Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools have worked diligently to ensure that we have placed ionizers in all buildings to mitigate the spread of the virus, purchased supplies to ensure the frequent and consistent sanitization of all school buses and facilities, and dedicated dollars to ensure that our students, faculty, and staff are safe and prepared for in-person instruction on the first day of school for the upcoming year! Parents and families that are still concerned about reporting to school in person will need to contact their individual schools to apply for virtual instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. Superintendent Ms. Miranda Wilson has advised that only those students with exemplary attendance and academic performance will be eligible for participation in virtual instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. Further, parents and students are encouraged to prepare for the upcoming school year by purchasing the necessary uniforms and school supplies. Masks will also become a mandatory part of the district's uniform code for the upcoming school year. Students will be required to wear masks that cover their nose and mouth at all times while in school and on the school bus and at no time, other than lunch, may students attend school without masks. Masks should not have obscene language or graphics. Additional masks will be available for students who do not have them onsite.

School Uniform Requirements

Standards for student attire shall be established by the school system in grades K through 12. These standards will be included in the Student Code of Conduct. A student shall not dress, groom, wear or use emblems, insignias, badges or other symbols where the effect thereof is to distract unreasonably the

attention of the other students or otherwise to cause interruption and/or interference with the operation of the school. If school authorities have a reason to question the appropriateness of a student's clothing or appearance, parents or guardians will be contacted and informed of such. The school principal/site administrator will make the final determination on whether a student's dress or appearance conflicts with these standards.

With the understanding that a student's behavior is influenced by the way the student is dressed and with the understanding that no student should dress in a manner that is disruptive or has an adverse effect on school activities, these minimum standards for student attire have been developed. Students are expected to dress appropriately for school and school related activities. Individual school dress codes may exceed these requirements. The school principal/site administrator will make the final determination of whether a student's attire or appearance conflicts with these standards.

The Hancock County School District will promote all efforts to provide additional opportunities for increased school safety minimize disruption, easily identify trespassers on campuses, and to promote improvement in student behavior and academic excellence.

The Hancock County School District **REQUIRES ALL** students in K through 12 to wear a school uniform as identified by the school in which they attend or will attend.

All students in K through 12 (except those deemed exempt) **MUST** adhere to the MANDATORY School Uniform Policy with the following dress code being applied in all schools.

- Solid black, or khaki shorts, skirts, skorts, Capri pants or pants/slacks. Shorts, skirts, skorts, dresses, and jumpers must be knee length.
- Solid white, solid maroon or solid gold, tops must be collar style shirts, collared blouses or turtlenecks, may have the school insignia, if one is available, but no other ornamentation is permitted. All shirts must be tucked in for girls and boys.
- Belts can be worn in the colors of black, white, or brown. Belt buckles must be 2 inches or less with no designs or graffiti i.e. skulls, drugs paraphernalia etc.
- Athletic shoes (sneakers) may be of any color of choice.
- No slides, flip-flops, house shoes or shower shoes.

- Closed toe shoes may be worn in any color. Only solid black, white, or maroon socks and/or tights will be permitted with uniforms.
- No hats, bandanas, caps, headwraps, bonnets, athletic headbands, or sunglasses may be worn in the building.
- Slacks must be worn with a belt at the natural (naval) waistline. Also, slacks must be worn to the ankle, no stuffing of pant legs in socks or shoes.
- Undershirts and thermals must be one of the school colors (black, maroon, gold, or white) no other colors are permissible.
- Shorts, Capri shorts and skirts should be worn at the knee.
- Cargo pants can be worn as part of the uniform so long as they are in the uniform colors of khaki or black.
- Flip flops and thigh-high boots may pose a threat of injury to the student are not permissible.
- Sweaters, vests, and jackets with zippers or buttons are permitted as long as they are the following colors: maroon, gold, black, gray or white. No other colors will be permitted. Hoodies should not be worn by students in grades 6-12. If hoodies are worn by students in grades K-5, students will be inspected to ensure that the proper uniform is worn underneath.
- No hospital scrubs, knit pants, leggings, joggers, denim, jogging/sweatpants or jeggings are permitted. Clothing with holes, tears, or rips are also prohibited.
- School issued apparel may be worn with prior approval.
- Appropriate undergarments should be worn at all times.

Procedures for Exemption

Parents/legal guardians may request an exemption from a mandatory school uniform program for medical, religious or other justifiable reasons. A request for an exemption must be made within ten (10) school days of the beginning of the school year. Medical exemption request must be signed by a medical doctor. Religious exemptions must be documented by providing a copy of the official doctrine of the church which prohibits the wearing of uniforms.

A written request for an exemption must be submitted to the school principal using the Application for Exemption form that can be obtained from the school. The request must be completed truthfully and correctly and signed by a physician, if the request is for medical reasons.

The school principal or his designee must meet with the parents/legal guardians within five (5) school days. The principal will discuss the School Uniform Policy and verify the accuracy of the information on the Exemption Form.

The parents/legal guardians will be notified in writing of the outcome of the conference within three (3) school days. The principal will note the finding to grant or deny the request on the application, sign off on the application and forward a copy to the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will affirm or deny the principal's decision. If the parent/legal guardian does not agree with the decision, they have a right to appeal to the Board within five (5) school days. Consideration for exemption will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

No student will be considered non-compliant for the following reasons:

- An exemption has been established or is being appealed.
- The principal has established non-uniform day.
- A student is on campus outside of normal school hours.
- A student wears a button, armband or other accoutrement (accessories) to exercise a constitutionally protected right to freedom of expression.
- A student wears the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts on regular meeting days.

Dress Code Violation

The discipline plan below has been established to address incidents of non-compliance to the Student Dress Code Policy. Non-compliance, as outlined in the plan below, interferes with the operation of school and such interference will not be tolerated. Any incident, occurrence or display that disrupts the delivery of instruction or other school activities is considered interference with school operation.

If a student comes to school out of uniform the following measures will be taken:

- Step I: Students will be sent home and a parent conference will be held. If the parent cannot be reached, the student will be placed in ISS and a parent conference will be held before the child returns to school.
- Step II: Students will be placed in ISS for 1 day and a parent conference will be held. A behavior contract will be developed. Follow protocol of behavior contract
- Step III: Students will be suspended for 3 days and a parent conference will be held. Follow protocol of behavior contract, based on the principal's discretion.

Acceptable Dress for Dress Down Days

Acceptable dress for dress down days will be consistent with the dress code outlined below.

- School uniforms must be worn while attending all school sponsored field trips and activities (grades K -12).
- Body piercing that causes disruption or interferes with the learning environment will not be allowed to be visibly displayed.
- Tops must not expose any of the midriffs or lower back. Fishnet tops, halter tops, tube tops, strapless tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps and other forms of transparent or revealing clothing are prohibited and should not be visible at any time.
- Belts must be buckled.
- Shorts, skirts, jumpers and dresses must have a finished hem and must be knee length.
- Undergarments must not be visible.