

Cope Middle School 2023-24 Student Dress Code

State law allows local school boards to authorize a mandatory uniform dress code, which may include school uniforms. All Bossier Parish Schools implemented mandatory school uniforms in the fall of 1999.

Student appearances that detract from or disrupt the classroom and/or the school climate are not considered proper for school. As new fashion styles come to school, administrative decisions will be made as to the appropriateness for the school campus of the apparel or items. The administration of each school makes the final decision on what is considered proper or improper appearance, according to guidelines contained in our school student/parent handbook.

Uniform Shirts: White, light blue, royal blue, navy, orange or black short- or long-sleeved polo shirts, in solid colors or Cope-sponsored spirit shirts
Short- or long-sleeved white or light blue oxford cloth shirts
Short- or long-sleeved colored t-shirts are not uniform shirts

All uniform tops should be neatly tucked in at all times. Shirts should not be overly bloused as belts and waistbands must be clearly visible. Shirts should also fit correctly as shirts that are too tight or too short do not stay tucked in properly.

Uniform Bottoms: Navy, khaki, or black pants/shorts – Girls may wear navy, khaki, or black skirts, skorts, capris, or jumpers. Leggings and yoga-style pants are not uniform bottoms and should not be worn as uniform pants.

Pants/shorts must be worn at the waist. Uniform bottoms should be correctly sized to avoid any sagging. The uniform bottoms should not be made from corduroy, flannel, or pajama-type fabrics. Girls may wear navy blue/black leggings below the knee under appropriate length skirts, shorts, or pants.

Boys should not roll their shorts up to expose a second pair of shorts or undergarments at any time.

Uniform length: Shorts, skirts, skorts, and jumpers must be of appropriate length and fit. The bottom of the wearer's fingertips when standing will be the gauge for length. Pants must not drag the floor in a manner that destroys the pants by stepping on them. The hem of the pants/shorts must not be cut, frayed, split, or torn.

Outerwear: Coats, jackets, or sweatshirts (**without hoods**) should be in colors of navy, black, blue, white, gray, or orange. Hooded sweatshirts are no longer allowed as hoods enable earbuds or airpods to be hidden, and the student's face is not clearly visible for identification purposes. This is a safety issue for the campus. Outerwear with large logos, such as Nike, Champion, Pink, etc. are not uniform attire. Blue jean jackets are also not considered uniform attire.

Cope letter jackets, spirit group jackets, and sweatshirts for any sport, the Cope PTO sweatshirts, and the approved Cope spirit pullover from any school organization will also be allowed. No clothing from any other school, such as Airline High, should be worn. It is not Cope apparel.

Any non-uniform outerwear must be removed in homerooms and placed in the students' backpacks to be kept until leaving campus at the end of the school day. These non-uniform items cannot be worn during the school day at all.

We strongly encourage our students to purchase school-approved outerwear that can be worn in class. Cope Middle will not assume any responsibility for non-uniform outerwear that is collected for non-compliance by school staff. Please make sure that all outerwear is clearly labeled with the student's name on the inside tag.

- Shoes:** The student may choose the style and color of shoes with the following exceptions: Crocs and plastic clogs, flip-flops (including the designer-types), house shoes, or beach/pool slides are not allowed. Tennis shoes are encouraged for all students. Tennis shoes should have visible, tied shoelaces or fastened Velcro straps and are recommended for comfort and safety purposes. Tennis shoes are also required for physical education.
- Socks:** The student may choose style, color, and variation of appropriate socks.
- Belts:** The student may choose the style and color of the belt. The belt must fit into all the belt loops of the pants or shorts and must be buckled at all times. No part of the belt may be hanging. Belts should not have oversized buckles, questionable buckle designs or sharp rivets.
- Headwear/Hair:** Caps, hats, stocking caps, kerchiefs, and other forms of headwear are not permitted on campus. Appropriate headbands and hair bows are permitted. Hairstyles and headwear should not cover the student's vision nor detract from or disrupt the school-learning environment. The administration has the final say on what is appropriate or inappropriate for the school setting.
- Jewelry:** Items that disrupt the classroom/campus or present a health or safety concern will not be permitted. Oversized earrings or necklaces should not be worn at school for safety reasons.
- Body Piercing:** No other forms of body piercing (lips, tongues, noses (including septums), eyebrows, or other body parts) will be allowed for any student. The student should not get a piercing during the school year for any jewelry, except for earrings as there is not sufficient time for healing.
- Tattoos:** Distracting, visible tattoos must be covered by clothing or a bandage at all times.
- Facial Hair:** Beards, mustaches, goatees, or other facial hair are not acceptable for students and should be removed as needed.
- Spirit Days:** Cheerleader, danceline, pep squad, band/choir, or athletic uniforms may be worn on game days. In addition, all students may purchase school "spirit shirts" and sweatshirts sold at the beginning of school for wear any day during the school week. Approved "spirit shirts" are those sold by Cope clubs/groups or Cope athletic teams, not by other outside vendors or homemade styles. Uniform bottoms should be worn with athletic jerseys or "spirit" shirts.
- Student IDs:** Cope Middle School students are issued an ID badge and are required to be in possession of that ID at all times during the school day. The ID has a photograph of the student, the student's name, homeroom teacher, and grade level. These badges are used by school personnel in identifying Cope students on campus, for receiving breakfast and lunch food items in the cafeteria, and for checking out books in the library. **The ID badges should not be marked on or defaced in any way.** If students use a lanyard, it must be school appropriate. Students are furnished a first badge for free to keep and keep and use daily. Students who lose those badges or damage the ID in any way are required to purchase a new ID for \$5 in the library to pay for the picture printing costs.
- Dress Code Violations** Dress code violations show a disregard for the parish/school uniform policy. Proper dress and appearance is a student responsibility and should be closely monitored by students and their parents. The willful disobedience of our student dress code will be addressed with proactive discipline consequences such as student and faculty conferences, parent conferences, lunch detention, denial of extra-curricular activities, after-school detention or in-school suspension (GASP) as needed.

Note: Students should write their names on the inside label of all uniform items.

All lost and found items will be stored for a short period and then unclaimed items will be given to area distribution centers for the needy.