

# What not to wear: Public, private

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As school begins the season for summer vacation clothes has come to an end.

Dress codes should be in the forefront of students' and parents' minds as they purchase back-to-school wardrobes.

For public schools, dress codes can be found in print form at the school and in student planners which are usually distributed on the first day of school. Some schools have posted their dress codes online.

The Floyd County Board of Education has a standard dress code policy. Tim Hensley, public relations assistant to the superintendent, said that schools do have the authority to alter that standard a little.

The Floyd County dress code specifies "when questions arise [concerning dress code], the principal or designee shall determine whether a particular mode of dress or grooming results in interference, disruption, unsafe conditions, or has an indecent or vulgar appearance."

At Johnson Elementary, Principal George Brombacher said there are rarely problems with students wearing inappropriate dress. Two items that Johnson Elementary does not allow are roller backpacks and wheelie shoes. "As long as it doesn't create any commotion in the classroom, we try to work with the student," he said.

Rome City Schools have a broad dress code statement that is broken down by each school. Specific rules are added, for example: no spaghetti straps, no midriffs showing and no see-thru clothing.

"We have dress rules, but we don't necessarily tell students how they have to dress," said Gayland Cooper, Rome City Schools superintendent. "The policy is really a general statement and each school has a section in their planner that addresses details of student dress code."

Cooper said the dress code is to help prepare students for a world after school. "We're trying to teach some business ethics by providing a very wholesome school environment ev-



Brisha Askew, a Darlington sophomore, models her mandatory school uniform.

(Photo by Brittany Hannah)

ery day at our schools."

Private schools often eliminate the need for a dress code by requiring uniforms.

Christa Jackson, director of admissions at St. Mary's Catholic School, explained that the reasoning behind a school uniform is removing the emphasis to compete for the most fashionable outfit.

"Uniforms equalize everybody. Everybody comes into school on the same plane every day," said Jackson. "It affects how you learn if you're distracted by what you look like. They keep you more focused on your school work."

Last year was the first time Darlington School had required uniforms for middle and upper school students. They now have a uniform policy from pre-K through 12th grade.

"Uniforms tend to reduce family expenditures on clothing," said Anne Paige Wilson, director of marketing at Darlington. "We feel like school uniforms focus attention on the inside of a student rather than their outward appearance."

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