

Dear OAA Parents & Guardians,

A word of thanks for allowing Ozark Adventist Academy to be part of your student's life this school year. We take the responsibility seriously, pledging to provide an environment that values their academic success, character development, and discipleship journey. All within a safe campus. Safe physically and safe to discover and grow individually.

Today we had our first assembly of the school year to speak to students regarding life on campus. I take a direct approach with young people, choosing to believe they can think and act responsibly, providing positive accountability and corrective course when they do not. I have shared with your child(ren) today our intention at OAA to help each student achieve the success they will need for life. It begins with character and extends through discipleship and academics.

One area is that of our adjusted dress code. In the "real world" many employers have expectations for an employee when they join the team. It's an expectation of success and indicates being part of something bigger than one's self. This year I have carefully adjusted the code for attire as it applies to men and women, specifically as it relates to the classroom and Education / Administration Building. These changes challenge our students to "dress and act as they want to become." These changes apply to classroom time and other activities within the Education / Administration Building as well as student work hours within the building.

These changes are simple, but intended to provide a standard for our young people.

1. No shorts, athletic apparel, sweats, etc.
2. No hoodies, sweatshirts, bulky jackets.
3. Men wear collared shirts, mock / standard turtleneck shirts.
4. For men and women, shirts tucked in unless the shirt is specifically designed to be worn untucked and is neat and professional.
5. Sweaters, jackets and 1/4 zips allowed with dress-code compliant shirt under.
6. Women may wear blouses as well as collared shirts, skirts / dresses within 2" of knee, heels, flats, dress sandals, boots.
7. No Crocs, flip-flops or similar. Birkenstocks are acceptable that are close-toed. Men to avoid open-toed sandals and shoes.
8. No hats or bandanas in building.

Again, this dress code adjustment is for the main building, with the balance of the campus attire code remaining the same as last year. We do not do uniforms at OAA, which are an effective form of enforcing a dress code, but I believe allowing a student to follow a simple dress code gives them the opportunity to express themselves in the way they dress. In a couple weeks I am confident the adherence to this adjusted code will not be an issue. Thank you for helping me encourage our students to dress for success!

Also this year is an adjustment to those students who have earbuds and headphones. They are allowed on campus, but not in the admin building (the exception being student workers). All students wearing earbuds and headphones are asked to keep volume low so someone speaking in a normal tone can be heard at any time.

Your child(ren)'s success today and in the future is important to me and the entire staff. I believe each student can be successful and you've sent them to OAA because you believe we provide the best opportunity for that success to happen. The changes mentioned here are just a simple adjustment to strengthen the environment and aid each student in preparing for life outside of high school. One that brings short and long-term success.

As always, I welcome any parental concern or questions and am happy to always explain the philosophy and methodology for decisions made. These decisions, while to some feel arbitrary, are made with deliberate thought, seeking input from others, and placing all of it in a process of prayer. This is spiritual work we do at OAA and we do it through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

I'll keep you updated on changes as they occur, and soon elaborate more on the Character Core culture shift.

w/regards,

**Dean Waterman, MBA**

Principal, **OZARK ADVENTIST ACADEMY**