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Schuyler students are dressed for success

In an extraordinary display of commitment to their children's education, and support for and pride in their school, parents at Schuyler Achievement Academy worked together over the summer to develop a voluntary uniform policy for this school year.

It was an overwhelming success right from the start.



More than 80 percent of Schuyler's 250 students came to school on the first day wearing the recommended uniform – powder blue shirt and dark blue pants, skirt or skort. That percentage has increased to about 90 percent since then, said Principal Dorinda Davis.

“Our parents decided that this was a very important issue to them, and once they made that decision in August they did a wonderful job communicating the information to the entire school community,” Ms. Davis said. “I think it has had a very positive impact on our school this year.”

Schuyler is the only public school in the Capital Region where students currently wear uniforms. The policy is strictly voluntary and applies Monday through Thursday; Friday is casual day.

“I think it's a wonderful thing,” said Sa'asha Knowles, whose daughter Nariah Knowles-Milgo is a first-grader.



Parents say uniforms take away a common point of conflict among students – name-brand clothes. Children no longer are divided by what their parents can afford, which leads to fewer disagreements. Uniforms also are cheaper, parents say, with the average price around \$35.

Students say they like the color of the uniforms and the “dressed for success” feeling they have wearing them to school.

Everyone agrees the students are displaying an increased sense of pride in themselves and in their school, and some parents hope the idea will spread to other schools in the district.

Judith Smith, whose grandson Collin Smith Jr. is a second-grader, says he wants to add a tie to his uniform. “He loves it because he sees when he dresses in a uniform he looks like a big boy,” she said. “Our children are looking beautiful in their uniforms.”