



# Middle Township Public Schools

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
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Dr. David Salvo, Superintendent of Schools

June 17, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please be advised that the Middle Township School District has revised the Dress Code for the 2016/2017 school year. A copy of the revision is on the reverse side of this letter.

One of the major changes for next school year is that students will be able to wear Middle Township Public Schools' Spirit Wear. These garments must be orange, black, and/or white and reference Middle Township Public Schools' mascot, (panther); logo, (paw print); and/or name (Middle). Spirit Wear can be attained at local stores, the High School "School store", and individual schools. Please refer to the back of this letter for specific information regarding spirit wear, as there are some exceptions.

Additionally, students will be permitted to wear ¼ Zip, such as Northface™, and not require a collared shirt be worn underneath. Full zip may also be worn, but must remain zipped if shirt underneath is not dress code.

The new dress code policy and a "picture brochure" will be posted on the District Website and School Facebook pages. Please go to [www.middletpw.k12.nj.us](http://www.middletpw.k12.nj.us) to view sample pictures of the district Dress Code.

If you have any additional questions, please contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dr. David Salvo'.

Dr. David Salvo  
Superintendent  
Middle Township School District

### **Shirts for Students**

All shirts must be appropriately fitted and worn in good taste.

- Collared golf shirts, dress shirts, turtleneck, ¼ zip Northface© style , Full- Zip Northface© style.
- All solid colored shirts.

Not Acceptable:

- Tank tops, T-shirts, thin strapped tops, tube tops, Henley shirts;
- mesh, sheer, denim, and denim-like material;
- fish-net styles, and clothing which exposes the back, chest, shoulders or midriff;
- Hoods;
- Stripes or patterns.

### **Sweaters and Sweatshirts**

All sweaters and sweatshirts must be fitted appropriately and be worn in good taste.

- Crew-necked, V-necked, cardigans over collared shirts or turtleneck;
- ¼ zip and Full Zip do not require a collar to be worn underneath;
- Any SOLID color.

Not Acceptable:

- Hoods;
- Coats, hats, gloves and any type of outdoor wear may not be worn in the classrooms, hallways, or the cafeteria during the regular school day.
- Sheer, denim, and denim-like material.

### **Spirit Wear**

All Middle Township Spirit Wear is NOW acceptable, with the following exceptions:

**No Hoods, No Sweatpants, No Hats, No Coats, No Head Gear/Athletic Gear**

### **Pants, Shorts, Skirts, and Dresses**

All pants, shorts, skirts, and dresses must be fitted appropriately and be worn in good taste.

- Docker-style , dress pants, Capri pants, joggers, leggings, shorts, skirts, dresses, jumpers;
- Skirts, shorts and dresses must be of an appropriate /acceptable length;
- Dresses must have collar
- Any Solid Color

Not Acceptable:

- Painter's pants, overalls, jeans, sweatpants, pajama pants, mesh/gym shorts;
- Sheer, denim, and denim-like material;
- Chain-link and metal belts.

### **Footwear for Students**

- Shoes with rubber or hard soles and sneakers.
- Dress sandals (must have strap along the heel/ankle area).
- Solid colored pantyhose or tights.

Not Acceptable:

- Flip-flops, Shower shoes, Bedroom slippers;
- Fishnet stockings

**Shirts**

All shirts must be a solid color and collared.

Turtlenecks, ¼ zip  
“Northface” style  
and full-zip  
“Northface” style

Acceptable



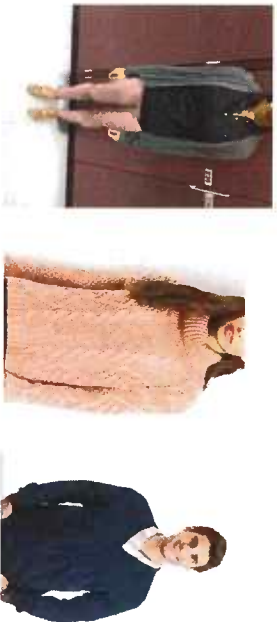
Not Acceptable



**Sweaters and  
Sweatshirts**



Must be solid color,  
appropriately fitted  
and worn over a  
collared shirt or  
turtleneck. ¼ zip or  
Full zip do not  
require a collar  
underneath

Acceptable



Not Acceptable



<p><b>Spirit Wear</b></p> <p>Middle Wear is acceptable. Remember hoodies, hats, and sweatpants are not permitted.</p>	<p><u>Acceptable</u></p> 	<p><u>Not Acceptable</u></p>  <p>Hooded</p>
<p><b>Pants, Shorts, Dresses, Skirts</b></p> <p>Any solid color. Appropriately fitted Docker style, dress pants, Capri, joggers, leggings, jumpers, dresses with a collar. Shorts, skirts and dresses must be of an appropriate length.</p>	<p><u>Acceptable</u></p> 	<p><u>Not Acceptable</u></p>  <p>Mesh</p>  <p>Too Short</p>  <p>Denim/jeans</p>  <p>Writing</p>  <p>Sweatpants</p>

<b>Footwear</b>	<u>Acceptable</u>	<u>Not Acceptable</u>
<p>Rubber or hard soles and sneakers, dress sandals (must have strap along the heel/ankle area) Solid color pantyhose/tights</p>		 <p>Shower Shoes</p> <p>Flip Flops</p> <p>Not Solid Colored</p>

## 5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Middle Township Board of Education intends to adopt a mandatory standard dress policy for all students in grades Pre-K through twelve, and it firmly believes young people who are safe and secure and who learn basic American values and the essentials of good citizenship are better students. Many parents, teachers and school officials have come to see a standard of dress as one positive and creative way to reduce discipline problems, prevent future discipline problems from occurring and increase school safety. It has been observed that the adoption of a mandatory standard of dress can promote school safety, improve discipline and enhance the learning environment.

The Middle Township Board of Education strongly believes that the following issues would support such a policy:

1. A standard code of dress would create security through identification, enabling school officials to recognize intruders
2. A more positive atmosphere conducive to education will be established.
3. Similar clothing will reduce peer pressure dealing with student attire.
4. A standard code of dress would promote a statement of identity.
5. A sense of school unity will be created.
6. Students will be instilled with discipline.
7. School spirit will be enhanced.
8. A standard code of dress will help assist families with the economic burden of clothing, children since the garments are less costly than most clothing.

This policy does not include an "opt out" provision for students who, with parental consent, seek to dress in a manner contrary to the standards set forth herein. The Board of Education, based on the testimony of its teaching staff and administration during the public hearings on this policy, finds specifically that the disruption of the learning environment in absence of a standard code of dress has reached a point that other lesser measures have been or would be ineffective.



The actual standard code of dress for students in grades Pre-K through twelve, commencing with the first day of classes of the 2003-2004 school year, shall be as follows:

### **Shirts for Students**

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Not Acceptable:

- Flip-flops, Shower shoes, Bedroom slippers;
- Fishnet stockings

The Middle Township Board of Education is knowledgeable of the disciplinary sanctions that will be rendered upon those students who refuse to conform to the standard code of dress. The sanctions are as follows:





## Standard Code of Dress:

Students are expected to wear the designated standard of dress daily. Students may not elect to wear personal choice attire other than the designated dress code components. Failure to comply with the standard code of dress will result in the following disciplinary action:

### First Offense:

-Students will be obligated to change to appropriate attire before returning to class and will be issued an administrative (90 minute) detention. Those who refuse to change will be sent home (unexcused) until they elect to return and comply with the rule. They will also be issued a 90-minuted detention.

### Second Offense:

-Students will again be obligated to change to appropriate attire before returning to class and will be issued an administrative (90 minute) detention. Those who refuse to change will be sent home (unexcused) until they elect to return and comply with the rule. They will also be issued a 90-minuted detention.

### Third Offense:

-Students will change their attire and be issued a Saturday detention. Those who refuse to change will be sent home (unexcused) until they elect to return and comply with the rule. They will also be issued a Saturday detention.

### Additional Offenses:

-Students will receive a suspension (2 days, 3 days, 5 days) and will be required, with their parent/guardian, to meet with the principal and subsequently for additional offenses, with the superintendent and ultimately, the Board of Education.

The Board of Education recognizes that the disciplinary progression at the elementary level will be adjusted in accordance with the age appropriate procedures. The building administration reserves the right to make determinations within the approved code. Students who transfer to Middle Township Public Schools will be informed of the standard of dress and will receive up to five days to comply.

Furthermore, a special fund shall be established to provide support for families experiencing a financial difficulty in purchasing required clothing as determined by qualification for the free lunch program. A dress code exchange program will also be established in each school.



Finally, it is not the intention of the Middle Township Board of Education to infringe upon the rights of any individual, but rather to provide a safe environment for all students to receive the education they so rightfully deserve. The Board acknowledges that individual expression is not necessarily inconsistent with the standard of dress outlined herein. This policy is not intended nor shall it be construed or interpreted to prohibit students from wearing or displaying expressive items – for example, a button that supports a political candidate – so long as such items do not independently contribute to

disruption by substantially interfering with discipline or with the rights of others, and the student is otherwise in compliance with this policy. Thus, for example, students may not wear a button bearing a gang insignia. Additionally, students may not wear items that undermine the integrity of the standard of dress notwithstanding their expressive nature, such as a sweatshirt bearing a political message, but which also covers or replaces the type of shirt required by the policy. Students may display religious messages on items of clothing to the same extent that they are permitted to display other comparable messages.

Staff members shall demonstrate by example and precept wholesome attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety modesty and good sense in attire and appearance.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1; N.J.S.A. 18A:11-7; N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8; N.J.S.A. 18A:11-9

Adopted: July 15, 1999  
Amended: May 15, 2003  
Amended: September 2, 2003  
Amended: July 15, 2004  
Amended: July 20, 2006  
Amended: November 18, 2010  
Amended: June 16, 2016

