

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 2019-2020 school year, shall be as follows:

All clothing or adornments worn or carried will be judged upon the effect they have upon the health, welfare, and safety of the school community and whether this clothing could have a deleterious effect upon the normal routine and function of the public school. All clothing and accessories must be appropriately fitted and worn in good taste. The administration reserves the right to make changes as styles may dictate.



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Pupils will not wear:

1. Any apparel or accessory with obscene, offensive, bias, or profane material on it or refer to violence, drugs, sex, alcohol, or tobacco products.
2. Tank tops, thin-strapped tops, tube tops, crop tops, halter tops, and clothing that exposes the back, chest, or midriff.
3. Clothing made of sheer or fishnet material.
4. Clothing with holes and/or tears.
5. Pajamas or undergarments worn as outerwear.
6. Strapless, thin-strapped, spaghetti strapped dresses or rompers/jumpers.
7. Clothing or accessories which is designed for beachwear (bathing suits, etc.).
8. Chain-link and metal belts.
9. Hats, bandanas, or other headgear.
10. 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.
11. Flip flops, slides, shower shoes, or bedroom slippers.
12. Excessively short skirts or shorts.

The administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of a pupil's attire. A pupil found to be in violation of the dress code may be sent home and subject to disciplinary action.