

ELEMENTARY STUDENT DRESS CODE

The School Board has the authority to impose limitations on students' dress in school. The Board shall not interfere with the right of students and their parents/guardians to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices disrupt the educational program of the schools, constitute a health or safety hazard, or shall be inconsistent with Board policy.

The Middletown Area School District believes that students perform at their best in classroom situations if a standard for good grooming is followed. The value of a clean and neat appearance cannot be over-stated. Well-dressed and well-groomed students are also a well-disciplined group of students. Appropriate dress is that which is not offensive and isn't a distraction to the learning environment. All students must be neat and clean in order that a healthy and educationally conducive atmosphere can be maintained.

The building principal or designee shall be responsible to monitor student dress and grooming, and to enforce Board policy and school rules governing student dress and grooming. Students who do not abide by the provisions of the dress code will be counseled by teachers, counselors or principals. When necessary, parents will be contacted to bring a change of clothing. To ensure a safe, healthy, and educationally conducive environment, consistent violation of this dress code may result in disciplinary action in accordance with Board policy.

Dress Code Guidelines

- Appropriate footwear must be worn for health and safety reasons. Bare feet, flip-flops, open-toed or open-heeled shoes, shoes with built-in roller wheels, and sandals are not permitted.
- Clothing that is fringed, frayed, torn, oversized, or dragging on the floor and considered unsafe is not permitted.
- Shorts may be worn to school from the first day of school through October 31 and from April 1 through the end of the school year. Shorts may be brought to school for gym class throughout the year.
- No clothing should be worn that is too short, tight, or immodest. This includes, but is not limited to, thermal underwear as an outer garment, bare midriffs or torsos, thin, mesh or see-through attire.
- Scrubs, pajamas and attire that resembles pajamas are not permitted unless approved by the principal.
- Jackets, coats, parkas, heavy winter coats or any clothing considered outdoor wear should not be worn in school and must be secured in lockers or classroom cubbies.
- Headgear, including but not limited to, sunglasses, athletic headbands, caps, hats, bandanas, hairnets, skull caps, scarves, pre-wraps, excessive hair decorations, etc, is not permitted except for religious or medical purposes upon approval from the principal.
- Clothing or accessories containing slogans, symbols, pictures, words or advertisements that are a distraction to the educational setting are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, slogans such as tobacco, drugs, alcohol, ethnic slurs, cults, gangs, weapons, sexual references, satanic references, or double meaning slogans/symbols.
- Inappropriate and potentially hazardous jewelry/decorations/accessories including, but not limited to, a glove or gloves, excessive rings, spiked wristbands/necklaces, heavy chains, dog collars, etc are not permitted.
- Excessive make-up or face art should not be worn.
- Undergarments must be worn and must be completely covered by outer clothing.
- Pants worn below the waist (sagging garments) and extra-long baggy pants (pant legs that totally cover or hide the shoes) are not permitted.