



STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

Approved by the Governing Council on November 15, 2017.

Purpose

The scope of education at MPCS extends to consideration of the environment which surrounds children when they attend school. Because of this, we ask that children dress in ways that support the curriculum and allow full participation in the activities that occur. Therefore, we encourage/ strive to have attire that is functional and contributes to a healthy environment.

MPCS believes that all students have an intrinsic worth based upon who they are and not what they wear. However, we recognize that students' clothing may influence their own and other's performance at school, healthy participation in the social environment, and children's play. For example, children in the early elementary grades live in an imaginative world. Their play may change if their clothing has pictures of characters or even animals. Children in the older grades may end up influencing the play of younger ones or even have images that are frightening. When children are at school we want the energy and ideas to come from within, not from the clothes they wear. This policy is designed to encourage in students an awareness of decorum that will support them both as learners and, later, as adult members of various communities in the world.

These guidelines may not cover all situations and faculty/administration may have special need to address particular attire. Please contact your child's class teacher or any administrator if you have any questions about specific items in this code.

Guidance

1. To ensure the best educational experience for our children, have them adequately clothed for:
 - Active, large motor skill movement and games; and
 - Special subjects such as art, gardening, eurythmy, or games/PE class.
2. To ensure a safe environment for our children/students, have them:
 - Come dressed appropriately for the weather since we are active in all weather conditions. Please follow guidance from your child's teacher or special subject instructor.
 - Wear tops that prevent over-exposure to high altitude sun.
 - Leave dangling jewelry, wheelie shoes, and other unsafe items at home.
 - Wear comfortable, practical, flat-soled shoes that are firmly attached to the feet. No open toe shoes. Check schedules for games/PE classes. These classes require flexible, form-fitting running shoes worn with socks.
 - Ensure that longer hair or bangs are worn in a way that does not obstruct vision. Children may be offered hair accessories to keep hair out of their face otherwise.
 - Maintain a natural hair color.
3. To create an environment focused on learning which provides a healthy social atmosphere, and promotes school-spirit have them wear:
 - School-related apparel.
 - Clothing (pants, shorts, skirts, tops, dresses) that covers undergarments, and skirts and shorts that reach the tips of their fingers.
4. We discourage, and consider unacceptable, the following:
 - Clothing, hats, backpacks, lunchboxes and other personal items which display wording/images depicting media/commercialized characters, sports teams/logos, advertisements, cartoon images, slogans and commercial logos with the primary purpose of marketing a product (large images). Writing, images or other insignia that are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, or which bear drug, alcohol or tobacco advertising, promotions and likenesses, or which advocate racial, ethnic, political or religious prejudice are prohibited.
 - Apparel or shoes with lights, wheels, or excessive sparkles that draw students' attention away from learning or play activities.
 - Clothing with purposeful very large rips, holes, or tears which may display undergarments.

Middle School Privileges

Students in grades 6-8 will have the following variations in recognition of their stage of development and maturity:

- Modest make-up applied at home.
- Dye or highlight hair using a variation of natural hair color.

Special Events

Special events give students an opportunity to share what they are learning with the whole school community. Their clothing should exhibit the exciting, respectful mood of these events. We all know the magical sensation that arises when we put on clothes that are reserved especially for important occasions.

With this in mind, we ask that children be dressed to reflect these special experiences keeping within the dress code. The teachers will notify parents and children of the type of clothing needed prior to specific events.

Enforcement

To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a manner that does not reinforce and/or increase marginalization or shame a child or family. At all times, faculty/staff will strive to employ care and consideration when speaking with children and/or caregivers regarding appropriate attire.

If clothing is determined unsafe, inappropriate, or distracting from learning or play experiences, teachers or administration will communicate directly with the caregiver of children in ECE and grades 1-4. Faculty and administration will use discretion and courtesy when addressing appropriate attire with students in grades 5-8, and will communicate with a caregiver if necessary. Caregivers may be called to bring alternative clothing. The school may also lend the student appropriate attire to wear for the day.

POLICY HISTORY

Original: created by DE and Faculty in 2015.

Proposed Restatement by PTF on October 25, 2017. Approved on November 15, 2017.