



STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

Approved by the Governing Council on September 28, 2022

Purpose

The scope of education at MPCPS extends to consideration of the environment which surrounds children when they attend school or school sponsored events and activities. Because of this, we ask that children dress in ways that support the curriculum and allow full participation in the activities that occur. This policy intends to encourage in students an awareness of decorum that will support them both as learners in a safe, inclusive preschool through 8th grade learning community and, later, as adult members of various communities in the world.

MPCS believes that all students have an intrinsic worth based upon who they are and not what they wear. Additionally, we recognize that students' clothing may influence their own and other's performance at school, and healthy participation in the social environment. Standards regarding student attire are intended to help students concentrate on schoolwork, reduce discipline problems and improve school order and safety. Students also shall not wear clothing or effect an appearance that compromises a safe environment. Although dress is a matter of self-expression and is influenced by weather and fashion, we encourage attire that is functional and contributes to a healthy environment. These guidelines may not cover all situations and faculty/administration may be required at times 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

To ensure the best educational experience for our children in a safe environment that is focused on learning and provides a healthy social atmosphere, we encourage the following dress code standards:

Recommended/Allowed:

1. Clothing that is functional and allows for active, large motor skill movement and games, special subjects (eurythmy, art, gardening, etc.)
2. Shirts/tops must have a strap over each shoulder and the bottoms of shirts/tops must meet or be longer than the top of the pants so undergarments are not visible.
3. Shorts should have an inseam of at least three inches.
4. Come dressed appropriately for all weather conditions.
5. Comfortable, practical, flat-soled shoes that are firmly attached to the feet.
6. Wearing school-related apparel.

Not Allowed:

1. Clothing that is overly revealing or sexually suggestive should not be worn at school.
2. The midriff, back, chest, or buttocks should not be exposed.
3. 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 display or advocate derogatory racial, ethnic, political or religious messages/prejudice.
4. Clothing with purposeful very large rips, holes, or tears which may display undergarments.
5. Wearing sunglasses, hoods, or hats in buildings.
6. Apparel or shoes with spikes, lights or wheels.
7. Bare feet.
8. Dangling jewelry.
9. Hair dye (see middle school privileges below).
10. Makeup (see middle school privileges below).

Discouraged:

Clothing, hats, backpacks, lunchboxes, shoes and other personal items which display wording/images depicting media/commercialized characters, advertisements, cartoon images, slogans and commercial logos with the primary purpose of marketing a product (large images).

Upper School Privileges

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

- Modest makeup applied at home.
- Dyed or highlighted hair.

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. With this in mind, we ask that students be dressed to reflect these special experiences while keeping within the dress code. Teachers will notify parents and students of the type of clothing needed prior to specific events. Efforts will be made to suggest attire which is inclusive to many dimensions of diversity.

Enforcement

In order to maintain academic focus and promote safety in our school, MPCs requests student adherence to and parental/caregiver support of the above dress code. If a student is in violation of the above rules, they will be asked to abide by any decision made by staff members and/or the administration about questionable items.

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 to be 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.

Proposed Restatement by PTF approved by GC on Nov. 20, 2019.

Proposed Restatement by Governance Committee on September 28, 2022.