

5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board seeks parental cooperation in helping the school attain its objective of fostering pride and good taste in clothes and grooming by exercising such positive parental guidance and authority as may be deemed appropriate to you. The Board will, at all times, continue to exercise its prerogative to inform parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of individual children of our concern or question as regards either the suitability or permissibility of certain attire. The Board feels confident that, together, we can engender a positive attitude toward dress and grooming in the youth of our community. For the specific guidance of parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) and staff, the Board provided the following guidelines based on past decisions.

1. In the matter of hairstyle, the Board recognizes that students have the right to exercise judgment so long as they do not:
 - a. Present a danger to their health and safety, or the health and safety of the staff and student body; and
 - b. Cause an interference with schoolwork and create a classroom disorder.
2. With regard to student dress, the Board specifies the following policy:
 - a. Students may not wear clothing deemed to be a safety hazard while participating in activities so regulated;
 - b. Dress which restricts the student from doing his/her best work is discouraged;
 - c. Styles that create or may create a classroom disturbance are not permitted;
 - d. Articles of clothing which cause excessive wear or damage to school property are not permitted; and
 - e. Wearing apparel which may be a health hazard to the student is not permitted while in school, without doctor's permission.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to limit the responsibility of teachers to enforce regulations concerning control of hair or clothing in the interest of safety or full participation in any specific teaching situation.



A. Elementary School

We all agree that an academic environment is best supported by apparel that is not distracting, and not inappropriate. High expectations of achievement and behavior are an integral part of the elementary culture. An extension of these high expectations to good grooming and appropriate dress enhances and improves student responsibility and self-esteem.

The Randolph Township Dress Code Policy requires that clothes should not cause a disruption to the teaching/learning environment.

1. Specific items of apparel that are inappropriate include:
 - a. Halter-tops, belly shirts, thin (spaghetti straps), and bare midriffs;
 - b. Any clothing or personal items that depict violence, profanity or offensive illustrations;
 - c. Shorts, skirts and dresses that do not reach the individual's fingertips when his/her arm is at their side; and

Hooded sweatshirts; may be worn to school, but at no time during the school day may the hood be worn up. All headgear, including hats, will be stored in the classroom during the school day. Baseball caps cannot be worn in school.

A dress code is only as effective as the personnel enforcing it. The entire staff, not just teachers, needs to be responsible for reporting to the office infractions of our dress code. The key to effectiveness is intervention. The final decision rests with the building administration.

B. Middle School

The guidelines for the school dress code were developed after careful consideration. The philosophy behind them has always been that a strong relationship exists between the clothing a child wears and his/her general attitude and behavior in school. We feel strongly that the casual nature of certain attire could generate an indifferent attitude toward the student's real purpose of being in school. It will remain our policy to discourage and limit outlandish or questionable attire which negatively impacts the educational process. Examples of inappropriate dress include, but are not limited to, the following:



1. Clothing items that display graphics or slogans that are deemed suggestive, offensive, or include drug-related or alcohol-related messages are not acceptable;
2. Halter tops and low-cut tops are not acceptable for school, nor are bare midriff tops or see-through mesh shirts;
3. Undergarments should not be visible when dressed appropriately;
4. Skirts and shorts should be of an appropriate length. Baseball hats, other types of headwear, and sunglasses are not permitted in the building; and
5. For safety reasons, appropriate footwear should be worn.

We, therefore, ask for your continued cooperation in helping the school to attain its objective of fostering pride and good taste in clothes and grooming. At all times, we will continue to exercise prerogative to inform parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of individual students as regards either the suitability or permissibility of certain attire. Final decisions regarding dress and grooming rest with the building administration.

C. High School

The school's objective is to foster pride and good taste in cloths and grooming for all members of the school community. The school recognizes that students have a right to exercise judgment so long as choices do not cause an interference with schoolwork and/or create a classroom disorder, and/or present a danger to health and safety or the health and safety of the staff and student body. In keeping with this objective, any accessory that may cause injury is unacceptable, such as studded accessories and chains. Footwear must be worn at all times.

The school discourages outfits that are too revealing of the anatomy and those that do not cover undergarments when students are standing or sitting. Bare midriffs, tube tops; backless garments, one shoulder tops, tops with spaghetti straps, mesh and/or see through tops, and skirts and shorts that are exceedingly short are not acceptable. Garments meant to be worn as undergarments may not be worn as outerwear. Hooded garments may be worn as long as the hood remains down and does not cover the head. Clothing and accessories with slogans, symbols or displays about (or suggestive of) inappropriate language, sayings, weapons, logos, racial implications, sex, and which is disruptive to the educational



environment is also unacceptable and prohibited. Any garment promoting alcohol, tobacco or drugs is strictly forbidden. Teachers have the prerogative to require students to remove coats, hats and other headdress during instructional time.

If students appear to be in violation of this policy in addition to parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) notification the following consequences will be applied:

- First Offense - A school-approved tee shirt will be lent to the student to be worn for the remainder of the day.
- Second Offense - An after school detention will be assigned.
- Third Offense - A Saturday detention will be assigned.
- Fourth Offense - Student will be suspended, a parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) conference will be necessary before reentry.

Final decisions regarding dress and grooming rest with the building administration.

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

Adopted: 17 July 2012
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