Proposed 2026-2027 School Year Dress Code

Purpose

The Board recognizes every student's right to freedom of expression in speech, written or oral, as that right is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Supreme Court.

The Board also recognizes its obligation to provide schools where the health, safety and welfare of the students who attend our schools are given paramount consideration and where a positive learning environment must be maintained.

The Board is aware of its obligation to make every effort to minimize the opportunities for student disruption and/or distraction in the school.

The Board believes that a standard dress code policy will address issues related to the health, safety and welfare of the students and the maintenance of a positive learning environment.[1]

Authority

The district, by the authority granted to it under the law, hereby immediately imposes a standard dress code policy for grades K-12 for all district students.[2][1]

The administration reserves the right to amend the dress code for clothing styles that become trends which are associated with anti-social behavior or have a disruptive influence.[1]

Guidelines

During instructional school hours and at any school-sponsored event on or off school property, no student shall wear any apparel or jewelry that by words, signs, pictures or combination thereof appearing on said clothing or jewelry advocates or promotes sexual activity, violence, or the use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs, or demeans, or degrades another because of race, sex, religious persuasion, national origin, handicap or disability.

The Board is cognizant of the diversity of the students within the school district. Certain students may have a religious preference which precludes the adherence to the standard dress code policy and the parents/guardians are directed to inform the school administration and accommodation will be made accordingly. Any parent/guardian whose children may suffer as a result of economic hardship is directed to advise the school principal and such cases will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Dress Code

Students are required to be dressed according to the Mount Carmel Area Dress Code Policy (#221). Please see below for general guidelines to policy #221.

General Guidelines:

1. Leggings are prohibited.
2. Spandex is prohibited.
3. Yoga pants are prohibited.
4. Pajama pants are prohibited.
5. Clothing must be free from holes,rips or tears. Any type of clothing or pants that is distressed, has holes, tears and/or has rips are not allowed. Even if they are purchased with these characteristics they are not allowed.
6. Cargo pants or shorts are prohibited.
7. Hooded shirts or hooded sweatshirts are prohibited.
8. Tank tops are prohibited.
9. All shirts or tops must cover the midriff, crop tops, belly shirts or any other shirt that exposes the student's midsection skin are prohibited.
10. Hats, bandanas, headbands, gloves, chains, and belts with protruding pointed studs, are prohibited.
11. Studded jewelry or studded accessories of any kind are prohibited.

12. Open-toed sandals (flip flops) and/or open-heeled footwear (bedroom slippers) of any kind are prohibited.

13. Leather clothing is prohibited.

14. Shoulder bags or bags must be no more than 5 inches x 8 inches in size to be carried.

15. Underclothing is not permitted to be exposed or seen through outer clothing.

16. See-through clothing is prohibited.

17. Gloves or outerwear coats are not permitted in school unless approved by the principal due to the temperature in the classroom.

18. Any clothing items must be reviewed and approved by the administration before they are advertised, sold, or worn as dress code approved apparel.

19. **Staff will use the following guide to determine proper length:** Shorts,skirts and dresses may be worn if they are the same length as the longest finger-tip when shoulders, arms, hands, and fingers are in a normal, relaxed hanging position by the sides of the body. This standard shall be used to determine the appropriate length of shorts/skirts and dresses, but should be applied in consideration of a student's physical stature. Again the item should be resting on the hip of the student, not below when being measured.

Any student who violates the dress code/school standard dress code policy shall be subject to the following:

1. First offense: Notify parent/guardian and have them bring in appropriate clothing or dress code appropriate clothing will be provided to the student to change into. The student will remain in the In-School Suspension (ISS) room until proper attire is provided by parent/guardian or if the student refuses to change into district provided clothing.
2. Second offense: Parent/Guardian meeting is required. The student will remain in the ISS room and be assigned detention.

3. Third offense: Parent/Guardian meeting required. Out-of-school suspensions will occur.

The District reserves the right to impose additional disciplinary action for dress code violations as deemed appropriate by the District.