

## **Dress Code for 2011-12**

### **For All Divisions** *(with the exception of Pre-K and Kindergarten)*

At Manlius Pebble Hill, we strive to instill high expectations in our students in both their academic and personal lives. The tone of the School – including the tone set by the way we dress – should be indicative of those high expectations. While the dress code may seem a trivial matter, we believe it is the “little” things can add up and negatively impact the environment and culture of MPH. The purpose of the dress code is not to restrict student expression, but to model the expected standards of behavior and respect for the school community.

Why have a dress code?

- to uphold standards of appearance
- to have students dress in a manner appropriate to our school environment
- to help establish a climate conducive to a positive learning experience
- to demonstrate respect for self, others, and the educational mission of the school
- to assure safety
- to maintain fair, consistent expectations of all students

To help you prepare for the coming school year, please review the following guidelines. While it is impractical to present an exhaustive list of what can and cannot be worn to school, these guidelines will provide clarity as to the dress code regulations.

In our enforcement of the dress code, if there is a faculty concern about whether or not an article of clothing conforms to the policy, it probably does not. If a student is out of dress code, an adult will speak to the student and request that he or she change into appropriate attire. If the student does not have appropriate clothing, he or she will be sent to the Dean’s Office to borrow clothing.

While we will do our best to enforce the dress code, we also ask for the support of our parents. Please understand that when excessive time is spent enforcing this policy, less time is spent on school work and learning. We trust that we can count on you for your understanding and cooperation.

#### **Dress Code for Prekindergarten and Kindergarten:**

There is a relaxed dress code for the Pre-K and Kindergarten programs. Please plan to dress your child in comfortable, washable clothing each school day. We ask that clothing not be ripped or torn. Since we are firm believers in “hands-on” learning, we will be doing many activities that involve paint, clay, sand, water, and other “messy” materials. We will also be moving our bodies and need clothing that allows the most freedom. In an effort to foster self-help skills, we request clothing that the child can successfully fasten independently. Children must change into sneakers each day for physical education, so we ask that children wear shoes or sneakers that are easy for them to put on and take off by themselves (preferably Velcro for Pre-K). We also ask that children wear comfortable footwear that will allow them to climb our playground climbing apparatus successfully and safely. Sandals and shoes should have a back and low heels and we recommend that socks be worn with sandals since the playground surface is woodchips. The children play outside almost every day, so in cold weather they will need appropriate gear. Hats, boots, mittens, and snow pants will be needed every day in winter. Most importantly, you have spent time and money providing your child with appropriate clothing. Protect your investment: please LABEL your child’s things! We travel around campus and various items are bound to be left behind. Things with names are usually returned quickly. We also ask that each child have an extra change of clothes at school.

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- Boys' shirts must have a collar
- Girls' shirts must have a finished neckline (no t-shirts)
- Pants must not be of denim or legging-type material
- No sweatshirts (hooded, zippered, or crew)
- No hats in academic buildings
- No headphones
- Footwear – shoes, sandals, sneakers or boots only
- Skirts, shorts and dresses are to be approximately at the knee
- Clothes must cover shoulders, thighs, stomach and chest

Minimum standard of dress:

- No ripped, torn or soiled clothing
- No suggestive or revealing clothing
- Midriffs and shoulders must be covered
- No yoga pants/hard tails (skin tight pants with no pockets)
- No spaghetti straps or tank tops
- No exposed underwear
- No sweatpants or athletic pants
- No facial piercings, body piercings, or unnaturally colored hair
- No t-shirts
- No writing or inappropriate graphics on clothing
- No pajamas
- No hats worn indoors
- Leggings are not allowed except with a knee length skirt or shorts
- No attire that is distracting to the learning environment

Dress Down Day Rules

- no sleepwear or slippers
- no torn, ripped, ragged or revealing clothing
- clothing must be clean, neat and appropriate

Spirit Days for Sports

- limit 2 per season with at least 2-day prior approval from the Dean and Middle School Head
- Team may wear jerseys or similar attire, in addition to regular dress code, or dress up only

Lower School and Middle School ONLY:

- In order to ensure that our Lower School and Middle School students are able to play safely on our playgrounds, we ask that those students have a back strap on all sandals or shoes and heels on footwear should be no higher than one inch.