

June 30, 2011

Dear Upper School Students and Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying your summer vacation. While we have just wrapped up one school year, we are already planning for the next with great anticipation.

I wanted to make you aware of some dress code changes for the 2011-12 school year. Please take the time to review this before you make those summer shopping outings for school clothing.

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, I have provided the following guidelines and information. I hope you find them helpful. 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.

Sincerely,

Joy Strickland

Dean of Students

Dress Code for 2011-12

- 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