

### R 5511 Dress and Grooming

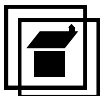
The Board directs that cleanliness and neatness in all phases of activity be encouraged for pupils' appearance. The administration is authorized to develop procedures, which establish prohibitions on dress, or grooming practices which:

1. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the pupil or to others in the school.
2. Materially interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program.
3. Present extremes in dress that interfere with normal classroom procedures.
4. Run counter to long-established acceptable dress codes for health and safety measures.
5. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property.
6. Prevent pupils from achieving their own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

#### Elementary Dress Code

The Somerset Hills School District expects pupils to wear sensible shoes and clothing to school. Dress and appearance must not be unduly distracting to an orderly teaching and learning process. For the safety and well-being of our pupils, the following dress items are not permitted at Bedwell Elementary School:

- Flip-flops or thong-type shoes
- High-heeled shoes, including high-heeled sneakers.
- Shoes with cleats or wheels.
- Excessively long pants (which can be tripped over).
- Halter tops, tube tops or cropped tops.
- T-shirts that promote the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.



- Shirts with writing or designs that are inappropriate for elementary school age children.
- Hats while inside the school building.

### Middle School Dress Code

Pupils are expected to dress appropriately for middle school. Clothing, accessories and/or decorations, which interfere with order and harmony or distract from the educational program will not be allowed. Current fashion and clothing trends often dictate the choices pupils make when purchasing and wearing clothing. Certain styles of clothing may be acceptable to wear outside of school, but the same clothing is not acceptable in school. Dress and appearance must not be unduly distracting to an orderly teaching and learning process.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) should use good judgment when helping their middle school pupil choose clothing that is appropriate to wear in school. Pupils are discouraged from wearing flip flops to school due to safety concerns.

The following attire is not permitted at Bernardsville Middle School:

- Bare midriff crop tops that expose the abdominal area.
- Halter-tops, strapless dresses, tube tops and tank tops. Straps of shirts must cover all undergarments completely.
- Tops that expose even partial cleavage (girls).
- Tank top/sleeveless shirts of any kind (boys).
- Shirts with explicit, offensive language or graphics.
- Clothing which is extreme in tightness or transparency.
- Very short shorts/skirts/culottes (no shorter than fingertip length).
- Hats/ headwear/hoods, except for religious purposes.

Pupils who are in violation of this policy will be sent to the office and given an opportunity to change into more appropriate dress. If a pupil does not have a change of



clothing, he or she will be required to return home to change into clothing, which is in compliance with the above policy. The administration will make the final determination as to whether clothing in question is in violation of the dress code. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are strongly encouraged to assist pupils in compliance with the dress code before they leave home for school.

### High School Dress Code

There are three requirements for school dress at Bernards High School:

- Dress must be in good taste.
- No dress may be unsafe to the wearer or to others, or be likely to cause damage to property.
- No dress may be unduly distracting to an orderly teaching/learning process.

The following do not meet these standards and are, therefore, considered inappropriate school attire: articles of clothing which have indecent, suggestive, hateful, biased or offensive writings, pictures, or slogans; exposed underwear; bare midriffs; bare feet; hats or bandannas in classes and offices; non-prescription sunglasses; beachwear.

For special functions, such as dances, field trips, special theme days, etc., pupils are to conform to the type of dress deemed appropriate by the sponsoring group and approved by the administration.

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

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