

Newport Middle School • STANDARD 4  
Policy Number 4.4

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Revised: July 8, 2011

Adopted: July 14, 2011

### **STUDENT DRESS CODE**

**PURPOSE:** To specify student dress/grooming requirements.

A student's style of dress and/or grooming may reflect individual preference; however, such preferences must be selected within the constraints of reasonable rules and appropriate standards that are consistent with the maintenance of an effective learning atmosphere and good personal hygiene. Newport Middle School expects each student's attire and grooming to promote a positive, safe and healthy environment within the school.

Newport Middle School has determined that reasonable regulation of school attire and personal adornment is within its authority and consistent with its responsibility to provide an appropriate environment for learning. Although Newport Middle School recognizes that individual students have a right to free expression, that right must be balanced with the school's responsibility to provide a safe, secure and orderly educational environment for all students.

Although Newport Middle School wishes for each student to accept responsibility for following the rules within SBDMC Policy 4.4, it understands and appreciates both the authority and responsibility of the parent/guardian relative to student dress. As such, Newport Middle School solicits the support of parents/guardians in the enforcement of its dress code.

#### **General Rules:**

The following decorations and/or designs (including tattoos and/or brands either temporary or permanent\*) imprinted upon or attached to the body or clothing are prohibited:

- Symbols, mottoes, words or acronyms that convey crude, vulgar, profane, violent, death-oriented, gang-related, sexually explicit, or sexually suggestive messages.
- Symbols, mottoes, words or acronyms advertising tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia.
- Symbols, mottoes, words or acronyms identifying a student as a member of a secret or overtly antisocial group or gang or that identifies a student as a member of an organization that professes violence or hatred toward one's fellow man.

\*Visible and permanent tattoos/brands incompatible with the standards set forth herein shall be covered to prohibit their display.

Excessively large or baggy clothes are prohibited. Approved garments must be of a length and fit that are suitable to the build and stature of the student.

Permitted garments shall be clean, in good repair, and shall have no holes worn through, slashes or rips.

Permitted clothing shall be worn as designed and manufactured to allow the following:

- Shirts/blouses must be appropriately buttoned.
- Zippers on pants and shirts must be zipped.
- Belts must be worn and fastened at all times.

School team apparel and/or school organizational uniforms are allowed on a game day and/or on other days as approved by Newport Middle School administration.

All students participating in approved school activities are expected to comply with required dress and personal appearance regulations of the activity in which they are participating. Students who refuse to dress as required by Newport Middle School and/or sponsor will not be permitted to participate in the activity or to represent the school in any way.

### ***Outerwear***

Students must store outerwear (coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc.) in their lockers upon arrival at school. Outerwear will not be permitted in classrooms, cafeteria, library, corridors or other areas of the school building after arrival unless authorized by Newport Middle School administration.

### ***Head Coverings/Sunglasses***

Scarves, curlers, bandanas, sweatbands, or other similar head coverings or adornments shall not be worn to class or within the school building.

Caps, hats or other similar head coverings shall not be worn to class or within the school building unless prescribed by a physician, previously approved by the Newport Middle School administration for religious reasons, or approved by school administration for a special school activity.

Sunglasses (unless prescribed by a physician) shall not be worn to class or within the school building.

### ***Upper Garments***

Garments must be tucked into pants at all times, and cut and/or fit to meet this requirement while sitting and/or bending. Approved upper garments include:

- Solid white, red, or black short or long-sleeved polo shirts. NO logos will be permitted on shirts that are not school related (e.g., *NEWPORT WILDCATS*, “N,” etc.).
- Solid white, red or black sweatshirts can be worn for winter wear and/or when it is deemed area(s) within the school setting are below temperature comfort levels. NO logos will be permitted on sweatshirts that are not school related (e.g., *NEWPORT WILDCATS*, “N,” etc.). No hooded-sweatshirts shall be permitted.

### ***Lower Garments***

Undergarments shall not be visible. Pants shall be worn at the waist, and shall not extend below the heel of the shoe in length. Approved lower garments include:

- Black, blue or khaki colored pants (NO jeans or shorts).

### ***Footwear***

Students shall wear appropriate footwear for protection and hygienic reasons while on school grounds, participating in school activities, or on school transportation. Approved footwear includes:

- Street or tennis shoes (NO sandals or flip flops; all shoes must be closed toe and heel).

### ***Accessories***

Jewelry and other accessories shall not convey prohibited messages as defined above.

Dog collars, wallet chains, large hair picks, chains that connect one part of the body to another, or other jewelry/accessories that pose a safety concern (or distract from the educational process) for the student or others are prohibited.

### **Religious and Health Accommodation**

Where a bona fide religious belief or health need of a student conflicts with the school dress code, reasonable accommodation shall be provided. Any student desiring accommodation shall notify the Newport Middle School principal in writing of the requested accommodation and the factual basis for the request. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's bona fide religious practices or beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy.

### **Penalties/Sanctions**

Students who elect not to conform to the dress and grooming rules set forth by this policy will be subjected to disciplinary actions and/or sanctions as defined by the Newport Middle School Code of Student Conduct.

### ***Unusual Circumstances***

If any unusual situation relative to dress or grooming arises which is not specifically covered in this policy, Newport Middle School's principal shall have the authority to rule on the appropriateness of the attire.