



As displayed on the wall of Glencliff Elementary School, there are many ways for students to easily comply with the MNPS dress code policy for 2007-2008. However, some parents have asked for clarification of some of the policy details. These helpful hints should make it even easier for families to choose clothing that is suitable for school.

The color of khaki

Although khaki is defined as “dull yellowish brown,” some people have mistakenly interpreted khaki as the “olive drab” sometimes used in the military.

The MNPS dress code policy allows a wide range of khaki shades, from a light beige to a darker tan, in dress-style garments of the traditional twill, corduroy or other fabric. Olive or dark brown colors in twill or any other fabric are not acceptable.



Although both pair of pants are made of twill fabric, the olive green color is not acceptable.

Belts, suspenders, neckties and socks

Belts, suspenders, neckties, socks and tights (along with the buttons on shirts and dresses) are to be treated as accessories with no restrictions on color or design. However, any item with colors or designs known to be associated with “substances that are illegal for teens (i.e., drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products) or are otherwise offensive, lewd, indecent, vulgar, obscene, profane, gang-related or constitute racial or ethnic slurs may not be worn.”

Belts remain the most common infraction of the MNPS dress code policy. **Please remember that all garments with belt loops must be worn with a belt.** Suspenders are allowed, but they are not a substitute when a belt is required for garments with belt loops.

The rule about belts has been modified for our youngest students, who may not have the manual dexterity to independently manipulate a belt buckle. Starting with second grade, all students are expected to comply.



Socks and tights are classified as footwear accessories and may include appropriate designs. Leggings, however, are considered a garment and must be a solid color.

Merchant advertising

We have had excellent cooperation from both large and small businesses throughout the city in providing a steady supply of garments that meet the MNPS dress code policy.

However, there have been isolated reports of merchants who label clothing as acceptable when in fact, the clothes don't comply with the policy. When in doubt, please check the policy at www.mnps.org, or call the Customer Service Center at 259-INFO (4636).

Definition of cargo pocket

Cargo pockets are gusseted or expandable pockets and may or may not have a flap. A pocket sewn directly to the fabric is not a cargo pocket.

Pants, shorts or skirts with cargo pockets are not permissible under the MNPS dress code policy. Removing any pocket flaps or sewing the pocket closed does not make the pocket acceptable. However, the stitching can be clipped and the pocket removed to make the garment conform to the policy.



This expandable cargo pocket is not permissible under the MNPS dress code policy.



This flat cell phone pocket is permissible because it is stitched directly to the fabric.

Logos

Manufacturers' logos are acceptable if they are no larger than two inches. There is no size-related restriction on school-related logos, including those for accredited colleges.

Garments and solid colors

These items are considered garments and must be a solid color: pants, capri pants, leggings, shorts, coveralls, skorts, skirts, dresses, jumpers, shirts, blazers, suit jackets, vests, sweaters, or cardigans.

The approved solid colors include:

- Pants, capri pants, shorts, coveralls, skirts or skorts must be navy blue, black or any shade of khaki.
- Dresses and jumpers must be navy blue, black, any shade of khaki or any of the district- or school-approved shirt colors.
- Shirts must be in one of the district's approved colors (white or navy blue) or in one of the school's approved colors.

Therefore, a pink polo shirt with a blue stripe along the edge of the collar and sleeves is not acceptable, even if both pink and blue are approved colors. A girl's blouse with contrasting piping on the collar is also not acceptable.

The solid-color rule also applies to garments with lace or embroidery for decoration. Those decorations are allowed as long as they're the same color as the garment. A navy blue shirt with navy blue embroidery or lace trim is acceptable; the same shirt would not be acceptable with embroidery or lace of a contrasting color.

- There is no color restriction on solid-color leggings. However, these garments cannot be worn as a substitute for pants, capri pants, shorts, skirts or skirts.
- Blazers, suit jackets, vests, sweaters, or cardigans must be in one of the district's approved shirt colors (white and navy blue) or a school-approved shirt color.



Stripes or piping of a contrasting color are not permissible.



This yellow blouse has decorative embroidery in the same shade of yellow.



This one-piece garment appears to be a buttoned blouse and a sweater vest. It is permissible if both blouse and sweater are approved colors.

Sleeves with tabs

Some girls' blouses feature a decorative tab that secures a cuffed or scrunched-up sleeve. These are permissible if the sleeve continues to cover the top of the arm.

V-necks and buttons

A shirt with a collar attached to V-neckline must have buttons and must be properly buttoned. A V-neckline without buttons is not acceptable even if a camisole or other garment is worn under the shirt.



Properly buttoned – with or without an undergarment

The dress code policy specifies that shirts must be “properly buttoned.” In general, this means that no more than the top two or three buttons can be left unbuttoned, even if an undergarment such as a T-shirt or camisole is worn under the shirt.

Hooded garments

Although the MNPS dress code policy specifically prohibits hooded sweatshirts, no hoods are allowed on any other garment worn indoors. This restriction does not apply to outerwear such as raincoats, windbreakers and cold-weather jackets and coats which may not be worn after students enter the school.

Sweaters and vests

A single blazer, suit jacket, vest, sweater, or cardigan is permissible if worn over a shirt with a collar and short or long sleeves. These garments may have buttons, snaps or a zipper closure. In addition, a sweater in either a vest or crewneck style may be worn over an approved shirt.



A V-neck sweater, a crew-neck sweater and a buttoned sweater vest are each acceptable as an additional garment over an approved shirt with a collar and sleeves. Although a wide range of cotton, polyester or wool fabric is acceptable, garments of fleece or sweatshirt-type material are prohibited.