

Sayville Middle School

Dress Code Guidelines

Updated July, 2025

School is a place where the best possible educational environment must be created and maintained. Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in school. At Sayville Middle School, we believe all students should wear clothing that makes them feel comfortable and confident, and demonstrates respect for the school.

The student dress code will be communicated to students and their parents at the beginning of the school year.

All students' dress and appearance must:

1. Be unlikely to injure people or damage property.
2. Recognize that extremely brief garments, extreme midriffs, and see-through garments are not appropriate.
3. Ensure that underwear is covered by outer clothing, (visible waistbands and straps are not violations.)
4. Recognize that muscle shirts, sports bras or sleeveless undershirts are not appropriate.
5. Students should wear footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
6. Not cover the student's face to the extent the student is not identifiable, except for a medical, cultural or religious purpose.
7. Not wear hats to school. If a student has a medical condition that requires them to wear the hat, they must submit proper documentation to school administration. Exceptions include wave caps, head scarves and bonnets worn for cultural or religious reasons.
8. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous.
9. Not denigrate, harass or discriminate against others on account of race, (including traits historically associated with race such as hair texture and protective hairstyles like braids, locks and twists), ethnicity, weight, religion, religious practices, disability, national origin, gender, (including gender identity and expression), or sexual orientation.
10. Not promote or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or controlled substances or illegal drugs, or encourage other illegal or violent activities.

Nothing in our school district's policy will be construed to limit the liability of students to express their gender identity or sexual orientation through clothing, jewelry, make-up or nail color, or to discipline students for doing so. Likewise, nothing in the district's policy will be construed to restrict students from wearing hairstyles as a trait historically associated with race or culture, (such as hair texture and protective hairstyles like braids, locks and twists) or to discipline them for doing so.

As a school, our faculty will enforce this dress code with careful consideration and sensitivity, with the goal of supporting students in reaching their full potential; not shaming or criticizing them, and to minimize loss of instruction time. We will use the following procedures when addressing the dress code:

- Staff, preferably those who have a positive relationship with the student, are expected to address dress code violations with students privately, determine if there are factors impacting the student's ability to meet the dress code, and help address these issues.
- Students whose appearance violates the student dress code are required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item, and if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable one.
- Any student who refuses to do so will be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day.
- Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code will be subject to further discipline, up to and including out of school suspension.