



***Copeland Middle School is a collaborative community, where all stakeholders work in solidarity, thus creating an environment of mutual-respect, trust, and responsibility while empowering all individuals to be their authentic selves.***

### **Dress and Grooming Guidelines**

The Rockaway Township School District respects the right of students to determine their mode of dress providing this mode meets the standards which have been established.

#### **A. General rules**

1. Pupils are expected to be clean and well groomed in their appearance and should abide by common standards of decency in dress and appearance.
2. Pupils are expected to avoid extremes in appearance that are so disruptive or offensive.
3. Dress or grooming that jeopardizes the health or safety of the pupil or of other pupils or is injurious to school property will not be tolerated.
4. Pants must be worn at the waist. Underwear should not be visible.
5. Hats and hoods are not to be worn in the school building during school hours.

#### **B. Prohibited clothing and articles**

The following garments and articles are prohibited in school and at school-sponsored events:

1. Low-cut, or transparent clothes, including beachwear, tube tops (tube tops are strapless/sleeveless shirts), bare midriffs (Shirts must cover one's belly button).
2. Sleeveless shirts (Must have straps) are permitted, however, shorts, skirts and dresses must cover one's backside.
3. Outdoor jackets (Larger winter coats) or hats except when entering or leaving the building (Thinner jackets and sweat jackets are permitted).
4. Patches and decorations that are offensive or obscene such as profanities, nudity, and hate symbols).
  - Clothing, apparel and/or accessories which make reference to sex, drugs, violence, or alcohol, is demeaning to gender, race or ethnic groups, or which indicate affiliation with any gang or organization associated with criminal activity or fraternities or sororities or styles which may suggest such affiliation.
5. Nonprescription sunglasses, glazed, and tinted glasses, except as prescribed by the pupil's doctor, are not permitted to cover one's eyes. They can, however, be worn as accessories.



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6. **Cell phones and backpacks must be placed in the student locker at the beginning of each day (Drawstring backpacks, Chromebook bags, Small-sized bags are permitted).**

C. Enforcement

1. ***Teaching staff members will report perceived violations of the guidelines to the administration, who will interpret and apply the guidelines.***
2. Pupils who publicly represent the school or a school organization at an activity away from the school district are required to dress in full accordance with the reasonable expectations of the staff member in charge of the activity. Pupils unwilling to comply will disqualify themselves from participation.
3. Pupils will not be permitted to attend a school-related function, such as a field trip, after-school activity unless they are attired and groomed in accordance with the guidelines.
4. The principal may waive application of the dress code on a day especially scheduled for pupils' free expression in dress and grooming.



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