New Dress Code to be piloted: 2012-2013

As you acquire clothes for your child/children for the 2012-2013 school year, please be sure to purchase tops and bottoms that adhere to the dress code. Venetia Valley will be piloting this coming school year.

**Venetia Valley Dress Code Pilot Program:**

**Bottoms:**

**ELEMENTARY- Navy Blue**
- Plain and solid navy blue cotton pants, cargo pants, jeans, sweatpants, shorts, dresses, or skirts.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - Khaki**
- Plain and solid khaki cotton pants, cargo pants, shorts, dresses, or skirts.

**Tops:**

**White, Navy Blue or Baby Blue with Collar**
- Plain and solid, long or short sleeve shirts that have a collar.
- EXCEPTIONS: All spirit wear t-shirts okay. Turtlenecks and mock turtle necks okay.

**Top Layers:**

**Navy Blue**
- Plain and solid navy blue sweaters, sweatshirts, hoodies, or layered shirts.
- EXCEPTIONS: All spirit wear hoodies okay.

**Shoes:**

**Sneakers**
- rubber soled, closed toe shoes
- No blinking lights or rollers
- No flip-flops, UGGs, boots, etc.
- EXCEPTIONS: Crocs okay. Sandals with a rubber sole and closed toe okay.

**Winter Coats/Rain Coats**

**Any**

*This Dress Code has NOT BEEN ADOPTED. We are only piloting it.*

Mid-year there will be a survey and an open forum discussion to gage the effectiveness of the pilot. That will be followed by a school-wide vote to decide if we will adopt it or not.

**Why a new dress code?** The goal of Venetia Valley School is, in part, for all children to achieve academic excellence. A uniform dress code will help us make progress toward this educational goal.

Adopting a dress code is not about having students put on specific clothes, it is about having students put on a specific identity which the clothes represent; an identity as young scholars who take learning seriously. In addition, a uniform dress code allows students to emerge as individuals based on merit and character, rather than on image and economic status. And finally, a uniform dress code binds our learning community together and creates another layer of physical and emotional safety on campus.

See next page for more details about the upcoming pilot and timeline
Concerns About Cost

Several of us on the Dress Code Committee attended both uniformed schools and non-uniformed schools as students. And at least two of us have worked at schools with uniform-like dress codes. In our experience, most of the concerns voiced about the cost of adopting a new dress code are unfounded.

Adopting a new dress code does not equal adding more clothes to your children’s wardrobes. It equals altering your children’s wardrobes as you acquire larger and/or newer clothes for them for the coming year. For most of us it will simply mean replacing outgrown clothes with clothes that fit the dress code. Because dress code clothes are among the cheapest types of clothing you can buy, in the long run this will actually reduce the amount of money spent each year on new clothes. In addition, if the dress code is adopted, we will begin a recycled clothes program so that outgrown dress code clothes can be handed down to our neediest families.

The types of clothes we are proposing for the new dress code can be purchased at local stores and/or online from Children’s Place, Sears, Target, Ross, Goodwill, and JC Penny for under $10 for shirts and under $20 for pants.

Pilot Timeline

AUGUST
• The dress code pilot will begin on the first day of the 2012-2013 school year. All students are strongly encouraged (but not required) to come to school each day following the proposed dress code at least until the January vote.
• A school clothing vendor will be on site at VV before school starts on August 20th and again on August 28th to make purchasing appropriate clothing convenient for families.
• Staff reviews dress code with students and explains the rules of the upcoming “Dress Code Contest.”

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
• Dress Code Contest from Sept 3rd - Oct 30th

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
• Pilot program continues.

JANUARY
• A survey will go home and an open forum will be held to discuss whether or not the new dress code is helping us achieve our goals around safety, school culture, and academic growth.
• A school-wide vote is held to decide if we will officially adopt the dress code for the 2013-2014 school year or if we will drop the idea completely.

Dress Code Contest

✴ The first week of school, staff teaches the proposed dress code to students. Reminders go home to parents about the “Dress Code Contest”
✴ Each day from Sept 3 to Oct 30, teachers write down what percentage of their students come to class following the dress code. Parents of students who do not follow the dress code the first week will be contacted by the community liaison to determine if family support or assistance is needed.
✴ At the end of the contest, each teacher with a class average of 95% compliance or higher wins a BBQ & Ice Cream Social for their class, in recognition of their school spirit.
✴ Each child who follows the school dress code 100% of the time during the contest will have their name entered in a drawing to win one of several prizes including 1) a season pass to 6 Flags, 2) an ipod shuffle 3) a new 20” Huffy bike.