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UNANIMITY FOR UNIFORMS

Going into the first year as a school, we were unsure about having a uniform policy. Uniforms can simplify a student's life by helping them focus on learning over fashion, but do they squander individuality and diversity? As a school that prizes democracy in all areas, it was important that we weigh the various pros and cons as a community. We had a relaxed dress code for the first year with the knowledge that we would eventually come together, with the participation of our founding families, to determine the best course of action moving forward.



During the final weeks of the year we launched a school-wide inquiry with the goal of coming up with our new dress code. Students were chosen to represent each of the Primetime classes as part of a Uniform Committee. Ms. Rubey and Mr. Meyers worked with the committee to mediate their varying ideas and opinions. Some students wore uniforms in elementary school, so they were used to the idea, but others have never had to wear uniforms. The girls were slightly more reluctant to give up their fashion freedom than the boys, but overall the students feel that uniforms will be good for them. With that settled, how should they look? What colors? Should each grade have their own color, or should all grades have the option to wear any color? These are some of the questions that were up for discussion. It was truly democracy in action.

To honor our commitment to celebrating diversity and individuality at S2, the uniform policy gives as much choice as possible while maintaining a consistent and clean appearance school-wide. Students can pick amongst polos, button-down shirts, pullovers, sweatshirts, hoodies and fleeces in red, heather gray and navy blue. As for bottoms, students can choose to wear black or khaki pants, shorts or skirts. And any close-toed shoes will be acceptable.

Throughout the final week of school, many S2 families came in for year-end presentations and the Scholastic book fair. To make uniform purchases as easy as possible, we set up an S2 Student Styles Store where families could see all of the options in person and receive help filling out the order forms. Each family has or will receive a \$60 stipend towards the uniforms and, if needed, the school can provide additional support.



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The committee’s final discussion addressed appropriate punishment for students who do not abide by the dress code. They agreed that a major reason for instituting uniforms is to enhance their educational experience, so the consequences for coming to school without a uniform should not interfere with learning time. With that in mind, they created a three strikes policy: for the first infraction, noncompliant students can borrow a “loaner” uniform, the second time they can borrow a “loaner” and will receive recess reflection, and the third time they can borrow a “loaner” but the school will call home and a parent meeting will be scheduled.

As always, S2 is open to thoughtfully altering policies depending on the needs and wants of its community. We are proud of our students for engaging in this process and making an informed, thoughtful decision that is agreeable to the majority, and we are excited to see how the new dress code will impact our students’ happiness and success in the coming years.