



HMM UNIFORM COMMITTEE

- RESEARCH PRESENTATION
- FEBRUARY 22, 2022



RESEARCH

MONTESSORI PHILOSOPHY

*HMM MISSION STATEMENT
HIGHLAND MILL MONTESSORI FOSTERS A PEACEFUL AND
CARING ENVIRONMENT BY EMBEDDING ELEMENTS OF
GRACE AND COURTESY THROUGHOUT THE CURRICULUM.
WE PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED, RIGOROUS INSTRUCTION
THAT ADDRESSES UNIQUE LEARNING STYLES AND
ENCOURAGES CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY.*



OFFERS STUDENTS'
CHOICE OF WORK



ENCOURAGES MORE
RESPONSIBILITY



PROVIDES STUDENT'S
MORE ENVIRONMENTAL
CONTROL



[AMS RESEARCH LIBRARY](https://amshq.org)
– [MONTESSORI](https://amshq.org)
[RESOURCES](https://amshq.org)
([AMSHQ.ORG](https://amshq.org))

A FEW CONSIDERATIONS...

PROS

- FOCUS ON LEARNING
([HTTPS://WWW.AMERICANPREP.ORG/WHAT-ARE-GOOD-REASONS-FOR-WEARING-SCHOOL-UNIFORMS/](https://www.americanprep.org/what-are-good-reasons-for-wearing-school-uniforms/);
[HTTPS://WWW.MONTESSORIDELMUNDO.ORG/UNIFORM-POLICY/](https://www.montessoridelmundo.org/uniform-policy/))
- SAFETY
- ENSURES ADHERENCE TO DRESS CODE
- SENSE OF COMMUNITY:
[HTTPS://WWW.MONTESSORIDELMUNDO.ORG/UNIFORM-POLICY/](https://www.montessoridelmundo.org/uniform-policy/))
- COST EFFECTIVE
([HTTPS://WWW.BERGAMOSCHOOLS.COM/PARENTS/WHAT-NO-MORE-UNIFORMS](https://www.bergamoschools.com/parents/what-no-more-uniforms))

CONS

- UNIFORMS ARE NOT A MONTESSORI ELEMENT
- RESTRICTS STUDENT CHOICE
- SAFETY
- LIMITS SELF-EXPRESSION
- SES INFLUENCES QUALITY AND QUANTITY
([HTTPS://WWW.BALTIMORESUN.COM/NEWS/BS-XPM-2007-12-23-0712220222-STORY.HTML](https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-2007-12-23-0712220222-story.html))

CONFLICTING RESEARCH ON IMPACT ON STUDENTS

- **NO EFFECT ON BEHAVIOR AND ATTENDANCE**
([HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCEDAILY.COM/RELEASES/2021/12/211220120703.HTM](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/12/211220120703.htm))
- **CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOL**
([BAUMANN, C.](#) AND [KRSKOVA, H.](#) (2016), "SCHOOL DISCIPLINE, SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE", [INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT](#), VOL. 30 NO. 6, PP. 1003-1029. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1108/IJEM-09-2015-0118](https://doi.org/10.1108/IJEM-09-2015-0118); [NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS](#))

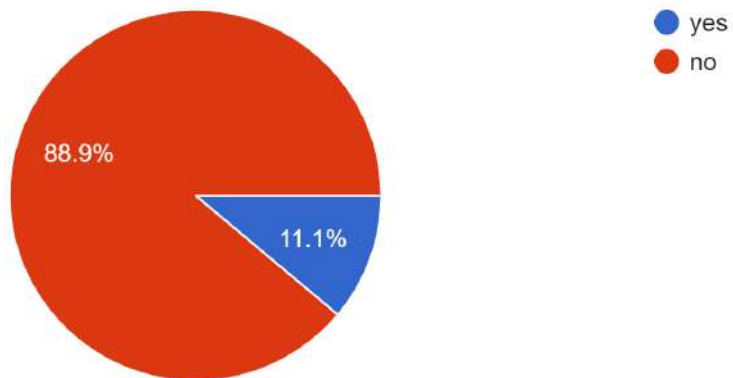
The background of the slide is a light gray gradient. It is decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes. Some droplets are clustered in the top left corner, while others are scattered across the bottom right. Each droplet has a soft shadow and a highlight, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

HMM STAFF SURVEY RESPONSES

SURVEY FEBRUARY 18TH – 21ST

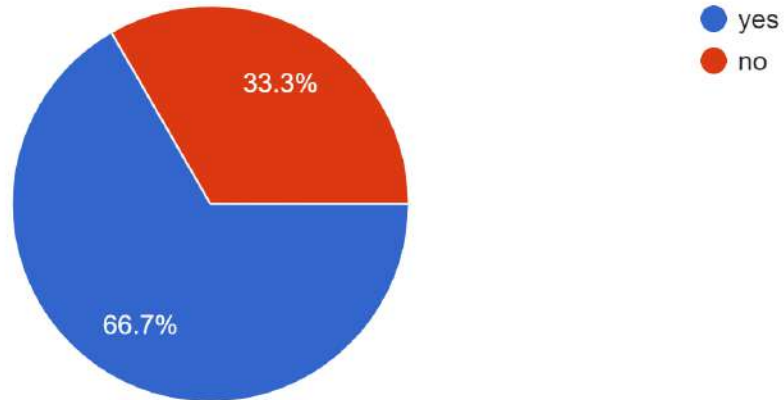
Do you feel student behaviors have been impacted negatively by students not wearing uniform dress code this year ?

18 responses



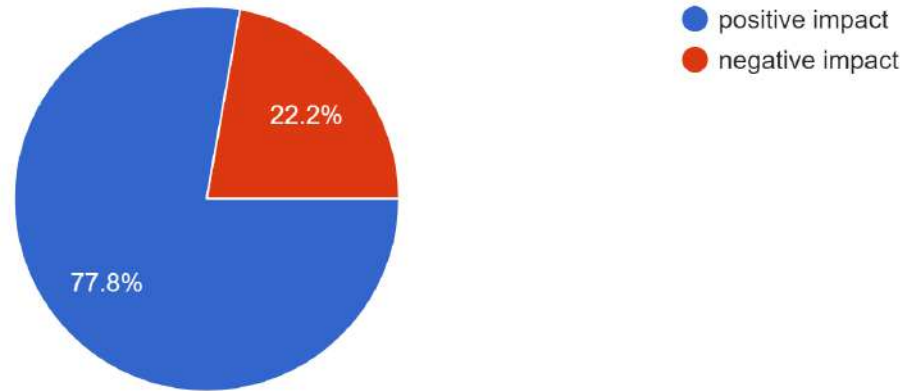
Do you feel student behaviors have been impacted positively by not wearing uniform dress code this year?

18 responses



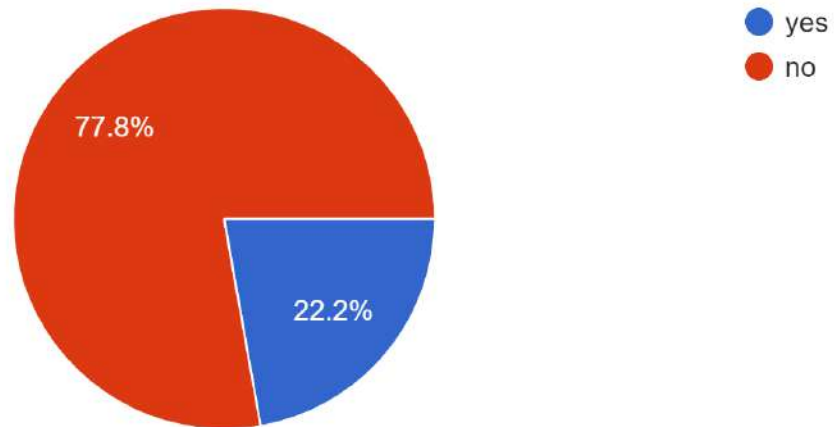
Do you feel that students sense of school belonging has been negatively or positively impacted by not wearing uniform dress code this year?

18 responses



Are you concerned if the uniform dress code is revoked?

18 responses



CONCERNS IF UNIFORMS REVOKED - EXPLAINED

- I DO NOT FEEL THAT REVOKING THE UNIFORM DRESS CODE WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE STUDENTS. THEY ALL SEEM TO HAVE ADJUSTED TO NOT HAVING TO WEAR UNIFORMS THESE PAST 2 YEARS.
- I THINK UNIFORMS ARE UNNECESSARY
- I DON'T LIKE THE CHILDREN IN UNIFORMS AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE THEM GO PERMANENTLY.
- IN MY OBSERVATION, THE KIDS HAVE ACCLIMATED PERFECTLY FINE TO NOT WEARING A UNIFORM TO SCHOOL. MY ONLY CONCERN ABOUT NOT REQUIRING A UNIFORM IN THE FUTURE IS THE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL IMPACT ON THE KIDS IN THE FUTURE. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT OTHER CLASSES AND AGES, BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I HEAR ONE OR MORE OF MY STUDENTS (USUALLY GIRLS) MAKE A COMMENT TO ANOTHER STUDENT ABOUT WHAT THEIR WEARING, WHY ARE THEY WEARING IT AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM. (WHY ARE YOU WEARING SHORTS? WHY ARE YOU WEARING THOSE SHORTS? WHY DON'T YOU WEAR...) OF COURSE, IF I AM IN EARSHOT, I CAN INTERVENE AND HELP SUPPORT THE CONVERSATION. BUT AS WE ALL KNOW, WE DO NOT SEE AND HEAR EVERYTHING. I HATE THE THOUGHT OF A STUDENT BEING JUDGED BY THE CLOTHES THEIR FAMILIES CAN/CAN NOT AFFORD. THERE ARE PROS AND CONS. I WILL OF COURSE, SUPPORT THE ULTIMATE DECISION. JUST SHARING MY CONCERN. THANKS FOR ALLOWING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE.

CONCERNS IF UNIFORMS REVOKED - EXPLAINED

- THIS YEAR HAS BEEN SO MUCH FUN FOR THE KIDS AND NOT WEARING UNIFORMS HAS ALLOWED THEM TO SHOW THEIR PERSONALITIES AND INDIVIDUALITY.
- I HAVE HAD ZERO BEHAVIOR ISSUES OR CONCERNS WITH A LACK OF UNIFORM THIS YEAR. I HAVE NOTICED AN INCREASE SENSE OF CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE WITH THEIR DAILY EXPRESSION. NOT HAVING UNIFORMS TRULY LET'S THEIR LITTLE PERSONALITIES SHINE THROUGH AND SHOWS EVERYONE'S UNIQUENESS WHICH IS WHAT WE CELEBRATE IN MONTESSORI.
- UNIFORMS ARE EASIER FOR PARENTS. I LIKE THEM. IT TAKES AWAY FROM OTHER CHILDREN TEASING CHILDREN WITHOUT THE NEWEST FASHIONS ETC.
- I THINK THE PRIMARY AND ALL LEVELS ENJOY WEARING THEIR OWN CLOTHES. I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS COMPETITION AT THE ELEMENTARY AGE LEVEL OF WHAT CHILDREN WEAR. SOME OF THEIR CLOTHING ALSO ENABLES MORE CONVERSATION VS. WEARING THE SAME COLORS AND CLOTHES EVERYDAY. I THINK -THAT FOR THOSE PARENTS THAT LIKE HAVING A UNIFORM THAT THEY CAN STILL DRESS THEIR CHILD THAT WAY. IT'S NICE FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS TO HAVE A CHOICE IN THEIR APPROPRIATE ATTIRE.
- STUDENTS HAVE THE ABILITY TO EXPRESS THEIR INDIVIDUALITY WITH THEIR OWN CLOTHES. LIMITATIONS CAN BE PLACED TO ENSURE CLOTHING IS APPROPRIATE.

CONCERNS IF UNIFORMS REVOKED - EXPLAINED

- I THINK THAT A LOT OF MY STUDENTS WHO ARE ALREADY STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN FRIENDSHIPS AND ACCEPT THEMSELVES WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE WOULD BENEFIT FROM A SCHOOL-WIDE DRESS CODE THAT DOESN'T MAKE THEM STAND OUT NEGATIVELY OR NOT STAND OUT IN A POSITIVE WAY THAT OTHER STUDENTS CAN WITH THEIR CLOTHING CHOICES DUE TO SES. I THINK CLOTHING CHOICES HAVE BEEN A BIG DISTRACTION TO MANY STUDENTS, AND WHILE THEIR ABILITY TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES CAN BE THROUGH CLOTHING, I THINK THE NEGATIVES OUTWEIGH THE POSITIVES. AS SOMEONE WHO WORE UNIFORMS 7TH-12TH GRADE, I THINK IT TOOK A LOT OF PRESSURE OFF OF ME TO BE 'COOL' AND FIT IN SINCE EVERYONE WAS WEARING THE SAME THING. I REMEMBER A LOT OF NEGATIVE COMMENTS ABOUT PERSONAL CLOTHING CHOICES IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND I AM SEEING SOME OF THAT IN MY CLASSROOM, WHICH I AM HOPING CAN BE MITIGATED WITH THE UNIFORM POLICY REINSTATED.
- WE ARE THE ONLY MONTESSORI SCHOOL THAT WEARS UNIFORMS. IF WE ARE TEACHING CREATIVITY AND INDIVIDUALITY, THE UNIFORM DOES NOT ALLOW FOR THAT UP TO A CERTAIN POINT. STUDENTS ARE COMFORTABLE IN THEIR OWN CLOTHES, CAN EXPRESS THEMSELVES AND I DON'T BELIEVE REVOKING THE UNIFORMS WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE SCHOOL, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE OTHER SCHOOLS DO NOT WEAR THEM. IT KIND OF CONTRADICTS WHAT WE ARE TEACHING. IT'S A FORM OF TRADITIONAL AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL THAT IS NOT ROOTED IN THE MONTESSORI FRAMEWORK. JUST MY OPINION....

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

- MY VOTE IS TO END THE UNIFORM POLICY.
- I WILL BE VERY SAD TO RETURN TO UNIFORMS. IT'S BEEN SUCH A BREATH OF FRESH AIR TO SEE OUR COMMUNITY FULL OF UNIQUENESS INSTEAD OF EVERY STUDENT LOOKING THE SAME.
- TIME TO REVOKE THE UNIFORM POLICY! IT'S OVERDUE.....
- UNIFORMS DO NOT ALIGN WITH THE MONTESSORI CURRICULUM AND NOTE, THAT NONE OF THE OTHER PUBLIC CMS MONTESSORI SCHOOLS REQUIRE UNIFORMS. ALLOWING STUDENTS TO WEAR WHAT THEY WANT TO HELPS INSTILL INDIVIDUALITY, CREATIVITY AND INDEPENDENCE.
- IN MONTESSORI, WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FOSTERING THE CHILD'S ABILITY TO SELF-DIRECT. THIS SHOULD START AT HOME BY CHOOSING APPROPRIATE CLOTHING.
- MONTESSORI PHILOSOPHY PROMOTES INDIVIDUALITY, SELF-EXPRESSION, CREATIVITY, ETC SO BEING ABLE TO CHOOSE WHAT YOU WEAR FALLS IN LINE WITH THAT (AND IS WHAT THE OTHER PUBLIC MONTESSORI'S DO...IF CONSISTENCY IS A CONSIDERATION). I LOVE SEEING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE SHIRTS STUDENTS PROUDLY WEAR AND TELL STAFF/.STUDENTS ABOUT. A LOT OF STUDENTS WEAR SHIRTS WITH CHARACTERS/GRAPHICS THAT REPRESENT THEIR CULTURE OR LOOK LIKE THEY DO. I HAVE NOT SEEN AN INCREASE IN BEHAVIORAL ISSUES/DISCIPLINE IN THE PAST SCHOOL YEAR WITHOUT UNIFORMS (IN FACT, THE OPPOSITE). ANY ISSUES WITH CLOTHING IS DRESS CODE RELATED (TOO SMALL/SHORT, DIRTY ITEMS, SHOES , ETC) NOT UNIFORM RELATED.
- TEACHERS HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS TO WORRY ABOUT THAT UNIFORMS. THIS IS NOT A BATTLE I WORTH PICKING.

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- VOTING WILL BE OPEN IN THE NEXT 48 HOURS
 - ONE VOTE PER HOUSEHOLD

NEXT STEPS



QUESTIONS

