



*Bella Mente*  
*Montessori Academy*

## **Uniform Dress Code Policy**

Bella Mente Montessori Academy (“BMMA”) is a school of choice. In order to facilitate and maintain an effective, healthy, and safe learning environment, the principal, staff, and parents of BMMA decided to implement this Uniform Policy. This Uniform Policy was adopted because we believe that a clean-cut and professional image reduces distractions and promotes learning. Therefore, school uniforms are expected to fit the student appropriately, be cleaned on a regular basis, and cannot deviate from the style and color choices. Students are expected to present themselves in a neat, clean, and professional manner at all times. Clothing that is tight, baggy, dirty or sloppy is not allowed. Items that are torn or cut in any way are prohibited. Appropriateness of overall appearance will be left to the discretion of the administration.

Although shirts are not required to be tucked in and belts are optional, we recommend that students choose to do so whenever feasible.

We believe that school uniforms promote a sense of pride in our school and solidarity between students. And while the school may designate non-uniform days, such decisions will be made by the Executive Director. Dress requirements for these days will be sent to parents in advance.

This Uniform Policy has been adopted by the Board of Directors of BMMA in compliance with the provisions of Article IX, section 5 of the California Constitution, and Assembly Bill 1575 (effective January 1, 2013), which prohibit the charging of any student fees for participation in an educational activity at a public school.

### **A. Pants**

No more than one size larger than the waist.

Worn at the waist and must remain above the waist when a belt is removed

No low-rise, bagging, sagging, or dragging

No leggings unless worn under a skirt or dress

No sweatpants

No logos or writing of any kind is permitted

Walking Shorts/Skorts/Skirts

Any solid color or pattern

No more than one size larger than the waist

Worn at the waist and must remain above the waist when a belt is removed

No boxers or running shorts.

No logos or writing of any kind is permitted

All skirts, skorts and shorts must extend beyond fingertip length.



## B. Shirt Styles

Designated white, baby blue, or navy blue apparel with Bella Mente logo. Available in t-shirt, polo shirt, and long sleeve shirt. Shirts with logos are preferred but are not required.

Any white, baby blue or navy polo or *collared* uniform shirts available through retailers such as ex. Kohl's, Walmart, J.C. Penny, Old Navy

Shirt should fit appropriately and not be more than one size larger than the student's body size

No modifications to tops such as, but not limited to, logos, designs, or pictures on shirts unless school logo

No bare waists, midriffs, bare backs, and/or low necklines permitted (It is a violation of the uniform policy to show underwear, midriff, lower back or cleavage at any time including when leaning over or raising the arms).

Cold weather tops (i.e. crewneck sweatshirts and long sleeve shirts) are available. Solid colored long sleeved shirts may be worn under uniform tops.

No modifications of uniform shirts are permitted. This includes pinning, rolling, knotting or any other modifications.

## C. Shoes

Proper and safe foot covering is required.

No "high heels" of any kind are allowed on campus.

Athletic shoes, leather shoes, boots, and closed toed sandals.

Sandals must have a back strap.

No flip flops of any kind will be permitted.

No offensive logos are permitted.

Shoes should be chosen with discretion and not be a distraction for others.

No heeled or platform shoes.

## D. Accessories & Grooming

Belts are permitted

Colors for hair accessories are not limited.

Hats are permitted outdoors only.

Hoods are permitted outdoors only.

Sunglasses are permitted outdoors only.

## E. Jackets

Any style jacket is accepted on cold and/or rainy days.

No large logos or printed words allowed.

Please write student's name on inside tag.



All students at Bella Mente Montessori Academy are expected to comply with the Dress Code. Noncompliance may result in, but not be limited to, the following:

**1st Offense:**

Student will receive a verbal reminder. Additionally written notification and a copy of our Dress Code will be sent home to parents/guardians.

Any student who arrives to school in nonconforming clothing will be provided a clean uniform from the reserve closet at the school, unless a parent/guardian brings a uniform from home. The student is expected to return the uniform to the school office at the end of the school day. A **voluntary** \$1 donation will be requested for using the borrowed uniform for the day to help cover the school's actual costs in cleaning the uniform.

**2nd Offense:**

Parents/ Guardians will be called to discuss the Dress Code and problem-solving strategies to aid the family in complying.

Any student who arrives to school in nonconforming clothing will be provided a clean uniform from the reserve closet at the school, unless a parent/guardian brings a uniform from home. The student is expected to return the uniform to the school office at the end of the school day.

. A **voluntary** \$1 donation will be requested for using the borrowed uniform for the day to help cover the school's actual costs in cleaning the uniform.

Student will meet with a peer review group to develop strategies to help the student comply with the policy.

**3rd Offense:**

At the discretion of the Executive Director.

**PLEASE PLAN**

No student shall be sent home from school or denied attendance to school, or penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against, for noncompliance with this Uniform Policy. However, students should be in compliance on the first day of school. New students enrolling during the school year must be in compliance within 10 days of enrolling.

Each student is expected to adhere to the Bella Mente Uniform Policy every day during the school year. Exceptions will include school spirit days, picture days, and other at the discretion of the Executive Director.