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When you think of a dress code or uniform, most people will recall the stereotypical images we see in the media: pressed and appropriate uniforms in military academies, navy blazers or sports coats with ties and pants in boys' schools, and plaid skirts and white shirts with knee socks and dressed shoes in girls' schools. But is this dress really the norm in private schools? Many private schools attribute most of their uniform traditions and dress codes to their British public school roots. The formal starched collars and tails worn by The boys at Eton College are world famous, but they are hardly typical of a normal school uniform these days. Much more common is a looser dress code consisting of blazer, white shirt, school tie, pants, socks, and black shoes for boys; and the ability to wear dresses, or a blazer and blouse with pants or skirts, standard for girls. The same uniform word suggests the *raison d'être*, or reason behind, united as some of the private school crowd calls them. It's a specific and standard dress style that every student wears, so everyone looks, well, uniform. Some school uniforms allow optional sweaters or vests to be added to uniforms. Although the rules of each school differ, and some will also allow students to add their own personal flair, dress up their standard outfit with scarves and other accessories, there are usually limits to how much can be added to the uniform. Compared to a uniform, a dress code is an outline of acceptable dress that is not limited to one or two options. It serves more as a guideline than a rigid rule and provides more flexibility for students. Many see the dress code as an attempt to create conformity as opposed to uniformity. Dress codes can vary by school and range from more formal dress codes requiring specific colors and limited clothing choices to more flexible options that may simply prohibit certain forms of clothing. Many schools have put in place uniforms and dress codes for practical and social reasons. In practice, a standardized uniform allows a child to get away with a minimum of clothing. You have your everyday outfit and then a better Sunday outfit for more formal occasions. A uniform also often serves as a wonderful equalizer of social status. It doesn't matter if you're the Earl of Snowdon or the son of the local grocer when you put on that uniform. Everyone looks the same. Rules of uniformity, however, students have been known to overcome this aspect of equalization through various improvements, such as accessories and jewelry, that they would add to their uniforms. In the 1990s, the Long Beach Unified School District instituted a dress code policy for its students. Proponents of the policy argued that the dress code created a climate for education that led to improved test scores and better discipline. Research varies on this, and students, parents and teachers as to what's best. Parents and students often point to the restriction of personal styles and expression of uniforms. On the other hand, teachers are often largely supportive of uniforms and dress codes because of perceived improvements in student performance and behaviour. The generally accepted view is that uniforms alone do not improve test scores. What they affect is the discipline and general attendance of the school, which, in turn, along with many other aspects, lead to an improvement in the students' academics. That said, private schools generally create a more systematic learning environment than public schools, to begin with. Uniforms and dress codes are only part of the formula for success. The real secret to success is the constant application of rules and regulations. Hold the students accountable and you'll see the results. Most private schools also have dress codes for teachers. Although the adult guidelines do not reflect that of students, they are often similar, engaging faculty members in modeling good behaviours and best dress-up practices. Now we all know that students of all ages have their ways of circumventing the requirements of the dress code. Pants have a way of becoming a little more baggie than the school regulations provided. Shirts tend to hang under the oversized jacket. The skirts seem to shrink overnight. This can be difficult for schools to enforce, and offences can result in varying responses, ranging from verbal reminders to detention and even formal disciplinary action for repeat offenders. Advertising - Continue reading below Advertising - Continue reading below ad - Continue reading below What happens when you teach young people to code? They create amazing things. This became evident to me at the second annual NYC Generation Tech demonstration, where 43 students from underserved high schools in New York City showed mobile applications they had developed over the past 11 weeks through the GenTech Entrepreneurship Program. The only requirement? The applications were intended to improve education or city life for New York students. Three teams, considered finalists, competed for a \$5,000 prize, the chance to present their application to Union Square Ventures and a branding consultation with Harley and Co. These are not small prizes, and with a huge audience and a panel of judges, including big names like Dave Gilboa, co-founder and co-CEO of Warby Parker, and Alexis Ohanian, the founder of Reddit, the was on. But where many of an introverted high school students would have failed, these children, some barely in second grade, shone. Dressed in their best outfits and barely sweating, they browsed their apps through the judges at presentations that had all the hallmarks of an Apple keynote. So imagine that... began Karishma Maraj, the 10th year president of the SproutEd team. Behind her, a smooth visual presentation, and to her left, her four teammates, all adorned with SproutEd gear. The app is an educational network for student students and discuss homework and homework. The judges loved it, and he was crowned the winner of the night. Insyper U, an educational app that encourages learning through interactive crime-solving games, was in second place. In third place is the Mealr app, which uses social competition to encourage healthy lifestyles among young people. And the kids understood everything from their target audience to short-term business models. SproutEd expects annual sales of \$12,000 for 2014. These kids, they didn't even know programming by jumping into this, said Kara Goldin, CEO and founder of Hint, Inc. and one of the event's judges. They had to come together and actually build and also sell their idea to other children in addition to building an entire business model in a short period of time. I thought it was amazing. We are in the age of technology, said Brandon Atkinson, senior vice president of global services at AppNexus, which hosted the event. I know new York is going to be better because of this program. [Image: Flickr user kewl] The School for Poetic Computing, which has just opened in New York, is the latest educational institution to jump on the learn to code bus that is driven by the explosion of applications for mobile devices and the ever-deepest penetration of computer technology in every corner of life. But this new school is different. Instead of considering the code as purely functional, he teaches students that there is inner beauty, and perhaps even joy to code. The school's motto is more poems less demos, and one of the four founders excels at this kind of interdisciplinary thinking: Zachary Lieberman, a man fast company calls party geek of research and development, performance artist in part, and part hacker back in 2010.As points out the New York Times, the school is a start-up that is already doing very well : it has already enrolled 15 students for the fall term. , selected from 50 applications, each paying approximately \$5,000 for its 10-week course. The Times describes the candidates as both traditional and mixed art people, including a beatboxer and a doctoral candidate who wants to use data visualization to highlight problems in the prison system. Many programmers appreciate the internal beauty of the code, including the author of this article, who used to code professionally in a bunch of different languages. There is an inevitable feeling that you create art when you think about the structure of a program and see the lines of text instructions printed on the screen. Writing code may want to dive into a different world, where time is running out. The School of Poetic Computing seems to go further by emphasizing the aesthetic value of what the code can do in parallel with the internal beauty of its construction. The school's website notes: I hope what we do at school for poetic calculation is for people, not computers. Schools require dress codes to promote uniform dress for students, minimize distraction, promote discipline and prevent prevention or vulgar clothes to become a distraction for students. While the idea of a dress code is beneficial, some argue that it stifles personal freedom and encourages the humiliation of female students. Schools encourage students to dress in a way that is considered conducive to learning, which means that clothing should not cause distraction for other students. This includes clothing that is considered too revealing or displays swearing or gang-related images. Some people argue that dress codes can be used as a method of shaming women, especially since they have stricter guidelines on clothing length, style and fit than male students do. In addition, girls are more frequently distinguished for their clothing choices, especially if the school considers the clothes to be distracting or sexually revealing. Some schools avoid general dress codes in favour of school uniforms. This promotes uniformity of dress and discipline that reduces the likelihood that students will be able to commit a dress code violation, since their dress choices were determined by the school and not by the student or parents. Parents.

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