



Dress Code

The guidelines for student dress are not meant to be oppressive or to stifle individual expression. Instead, they are designed to ensure that students will dress appropriately for school. Just as parents' work clothing may or may not be interchangeable with their "dress up" or recreational wardrobes, so students' closets may contain items which are not appropriate for school. When questions arise regarding appropriate dress, the faculty and/or Head of Middle School will make the final decision as to proper/acceptable student attire.

We ask parents to be our partners in enforcing the following guidelines:

1. Students should wear modest, neat, clean, comfortable clothing that is in good repair (no holes, rips, frayed hems, or patches of any kind).
2. Graphic designs (writing, pictures, etc.) on any clothing that refer to or promote any behaviors that are illegal or inappropriate for students are not allowed. For example, alcohol, cigarette, drug, or sexual statements are not allowed. If in doubt about the appropriateness of any clothing, a student should ask in advance: *is it True, Kind, or Necessary?*
3. **Headwear:** Students may not wear hats within buildings on campus. This includes bandanas and other cloth worn on the head unless intended for religious purposes.
4. **Torso:** Students wearing sleeveless shirts should have straps that are modestly appropriate (e.g. at least 2.5 inches wide and covering underwear). In addition, shirts must be long enough to cover a student's midriff. For example, if a student's belly shows when his or her arms are raised, this is unacceptable clothing. Similarly, pants must be worn high enough so that underwear is not exposed in the course of normal movement. Strapless and backless shirts are not allowed. At no time should a student's undergarments show (e.g. bra straps, underwear, etc.).
5. **Legs:** As a general guideline, a student's shorts or skirt should be modest in length and appropriate for school activities.
6. **Shoes:** In science, art, and physical education, appropriate shoes are required, depending on the specific activity. Shoes not allowed in these classes during such activities are sandals, open toe shoes, platform shoes, high-heeled shoes, and unlaced shoes.
7. **Special Occasions:** Dress should be suitable for the event. At some school assemblies, field trips, and the final end-of-year 7th and 8th grade dance, students may be required to wear coats, ties, dress shirts, slacks, socks and shoes or dresses, skirts, or slacks with an appropriate dress blouse and shoes. These special dress occasions will be announced in advance. Suitable dress involves a notion of good faith support for the sake of the community.

Other clothing questions, which arise each year as fashions change, will be answered in light of whether the clothing or accessories in question affect the school community and classroom environment.

Infractions of the dress code will be dealt with by the faculty and Head of Middle School. Students may be asked to wear appropriate clothing provided by the school over their own clothes (NOTE: these school-provided clothes need to be returned to the Middle School Office at the end of the school day) or parents may be asked to bring appropriate clothing to school before the student will be admitted to class. Repeated violations may result in the student serving an after school detention or being sent home.