

Upper Division Dress Code 2023-2024

Upper Division students have an opportunity to make choices about their apparel within a set of guidelines. Parents partner with the school to create an atmosphere of appropriate dress and demeanor giving students the support they need to develop good judgment. The Upper Division Director and Dean of Students will make the final determination as to the appropriateness of a student's dress or appearance.

Upper Division Dress Code Philosophy:

- Student attire reflects respect for one's self and the Academy community and values
- Students have a responsibility to present themselves in a neat, clean, and well put-together manner that reflects a positive image of the school community
- Students should be able to engage in the educational environment without fear of unnecessary discipline, body shaming, or stereotyping
- Students should be able to dress comfortably for school
- Students should be able to express themselves and their individual style
- Students will be coached discreetly on how to make more appropriate choices when they fall short of meeting expectations, and they will be held accountable for meeting these expectations after coaching has occurred

Dress Code Guidelines:

Clothing

- Clothing must demonstrate an understanding of appropriateness for different situations and environments
- Clothing must be neat, clean, and free of wrinkles and holes
- Clothing must be free of political, controversial, rude, vulgar, or profane images, graphics, or words
- Clothing must not promote drugs or alcohol
- Clothing should cover private body parts, midriffs, and backs

Bottoms

- Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be mid-thigh length or longer
- Shorts and pants must not be made of mesh
- Shorts and pants must have one of the following: belt loops, zipper, pockets
- Dark-colored leggings may be worn with tops that cover hips
- Denim blue jeans are allowed but must be free of holes

Tops

- Tops must cover midriffs, backs and private body parts
- Tops that are v-neck or sleeveless must cover undergarments
- Tops, when worn with leggings, must cover hips and not show midriff when arms are raised
- School spirit shirts and other Academy shirts are encouraged

Footwear

- All footwear must be secured around the heel with a back or strap; no Crocs, flip flops, or slides
- Feet must be appropriately covered and protected in Physical Education, Science, and Art classes
- Excessively high-heeled shoes are not appropriate for school

Accessories

- Hats may be worn, and faculty may ask that they be removed in classes, meetings, and assemblies
- Hoods may not be worn up in classes, meetings, and assemblies
- Airpods and headphones may not be worn indoors, nor during class, meetings, or assemblies
- Accessories must be free of drug and alcohol images

Grooming

- Hair, including facial hair, should be neatly groomed and clean
- Body fragrances should be used sparingly

Business Attire Days

On “Business Attire Days,” the students are required to dress in clothing appropriate for a professional workplace as outlined below:

Dress slacks with a belt and a collared, tucked-in buttoned shirt, or a professional dress, professional jumpsuit, skirt, dress slacks, a blouse or sweater. Ties are optional. Cocktail dresses, denim skirts, short-sleeved collared shirts, and sweatshirts are not professional attire.

Dress shoes with non-white socks or dress sandals, pumps, or flats. Athletic shoes are not allowed.

Students Not Meeting Expectations

When students do not meet dress code expectations, they will be coached discreetly on how to make more appropriate dress choices. Once they have been coached, they will earn progressive consequences until they show mastery of meeting expectations. Parents will be included in conversations from the beginning.