

THE OUT-OF-DOOR ACADEMY
DRESS CODE POLICY

MIDDLE SCHOOL / UPPER SCHOOL

Appearance matters in the way we present ourselves to others and to our own self-perception. The school needs the support of the parents in monitoring the appropriateness of their children's attire before they leave for school each morning. The school does not condone styles of dress that interfere with the safety of the students, that denigrate the values of the school, or that distract from the learning process.

Objectives

The Out-of-Door Academy's dress code is designed to promote a proper academic environment which is different from places designed for casual recreation or entertainment. The school will:

- 1) Support our mission of establishing "an environment in which students strive to achieve academic excellence and to build character through a balanced program of academics, athletics, and the arts;"
- 2) Help students develop a sense of personal pride, confidence, and self-esteem.
- 3) Contribute to an atmosphere of safety where students may express themselves in ways independent of clothing style.

Grades 7-12

Unless a special dress code exception is indicated, the dress code is:

- 1) All students will wear blouses/shirts/dresses (striped or solid) with a turned collar.
 - Collared blouses/shirts must have sleeves and must be tucked into pants or skirts.
 - Dress blouses (for girls) with sleeves and a collar that are not meant to be tucked in may be worn provided no midriff is shown.
 - Denim is an unacceptable material for any garment.
 - Shirts made of cotton or t-shirt material, whether acting as an undershirt or collared shirt, must be tucked in.
- 2) The Out-of-Door Academy / college sweatshirts may be worn over collared shirts / blouses or turtlenecks.
- 3) Pants/shorts/skirts/skortis must be dress or casual dress material (e.g., chinos, corduroy, khakis).
 - Shorts/skirts/skortis must be no shorter than four inches above the knee.
 - All denim jeans (all colors and shades) are unacceptable.
 - Cargo pants, cargo shorts and athletic clothing (sweat jersey material) are unacceptable.
 - Belts must be worn with all shorts and pants.

Middle School – pants / shorts / skorts must be of a khaki color.

Upper School – pants / shorts / skorts should be of conventional style. Solid colors, stripes and plaid styles are permitted as long as they are not distracting.

- 4) Dresses must have sleeves, a collar, and provide appropriate coverage of the chest. In addition, dress length is to be no shorter than four inches above the knee. If a student must have a sweater over the dress for it to meet dress code standards, it is inappropriate for school.
- 5) Only dress shoes, casual dress shoes and athletic shoes are acceptable.
 - For safety concerns, open-toed shoes and "slippers" are unacceptable.
- 6) Hats of any kind may not be worn inside the buildings.
- 7) All clothing must be in good repair and properly fitted (no clothing that is too tight or too loose).
- 8) Hair should be neatly combed, out of the face, of a natural color, and styled in a conventional manner.
 - For boys hair must be above the collar.
- 9) Except for appropriate earrings, visible body piercings or tattoos are unacceptable. Students will be required to cover inappropriate piercings or tattoos with a neutral color band-aid during the academic day.
- 10) Facial hair is prohibited unless special permission is granted by the Dean of Students.

Note: The final decision as to the appropriateness of any attire rests with the faculty and administration. Students found to be in violation will not be permitted to attend class until they can change into appropriate attire.