THE OUT-OF-DOOR ACADEMY est.1924

THE OUT-OF-DOOR ACADEMY
DRESS CODE POLICY

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL

Appearance matters in the way we present ourselves to others and 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 polo shirts or oxford button-down shirts with a turned collar.
   - By definition a polo shirt is a knitted cotton shirt with collar and three-button opening at the neck.
   - By definition an oxford shirt has buttons from the neckline to the bottom of the shirt and a rolled collar.
   - Students must be able to button shirts to the collarbone without material pulling or stretching.
   - All shirts must have sleeves and must be tucked into pants or shorts.
   - All shirts must remain tucked with arms raised above head so that no midriff shows.
   - Denim is an unacceptable material for any shirt.

2) An Out-of-Door Academy or college sweatshirt may be worn over collared shirts for warmth.

3) Pants or trousers are acceptable for school wear.
   - Pants must be dress or casual dress material (e.g., chinos or khakis) and loose fitting.
   - **Pants must be solid khaki, blue, gray, brown or black in color.**
   - Cargo pants are acceptable as long as they are not too loose or too tight in fit and pocketsize is not exaggerated.
   - No stretch material, leggings, cotton jersey material, or athletic material are acceptable.
   - No corduroy or denim of any kind, including stretch denim or jeggings, is permitted.
   - Belts must be worn with all pants.

4) Walking shorts are acceptable for school wear.
   - By definition walking shorts are loose fitting and have a hemline that falls at the knee, not above the knee.
   - **Shorts must be solid khaki, blue, gray, brown or black in color.**
   - Cargo shorts are acceptable as long as they are not too loose or too tight in fit and pocketsize is not exaggerated.
   - No stretch material, cotton jersey material, or athletic material are acceptable.
• No corduroy or denim of any kind, including stretch denim, is permitted.
• Belts must be worn with all shorts.

5) The expectation is that no undergarments will be visible at any time, including tank tops, camisoles, brassieres, underwear, or compression shorts.

6) Skirts and dresses are not acceptable for school wear.

7) Only dress shoes, casual dress shoes and athletic shoes are acceptable. For safety concerns, open-toed shoes, clogs, Crocs, and “slippers” are unacceptable.

8) Hats of any kind may not be worn inside the buildings.

9) All clothing must be in good repair and properly fitted (no clothing that is too tight or too loose).

10) 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.

11) 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.

12) Facial hair is prohibited unless special permission is granted by the Dean of Students. If a student is found in violation of this, he will be asked to shave immediately.

**Dress-up Days**

Throughout the year, there are special events that warrant dressing up. For young men this means dress pants, dress shirt, tie, and belt. For young women this means pant suit, dress, or skirt and blouse. No strapless dresses, and skirt/dress hems must fall at the knee.

**Spirit Days**

Spirit days will be announced in advance and are a dress code exception to promote school spirit and draw attention to certain athletic, artistic, or school-wide events that may be taking place. Spirit days require dress code approved pants or shorts coupled with any ODA issued shirt, including t-shirts and collared shirts in good repair and with unaltered appearances (e.g. Homecoming t-shirts, ODA polos, Spirit Day t-shirts, athletic team issued t-shirts, theatre production t-shirts). This does not include athletic uniform shirts that are too tight, sleeveless, or inappropriate for wear during the academic day (e.g. volleyball or basketball uniform tops or cheer-leading uniforms). In addition, individual advisory Turkey Bowl t-shirts are not appropriate for Spirit days. All tops must be tucked in.

*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.*