

## Dress Code

The culture of Highland’s Middle School is reflected in its dress code, which balances personal expression with the maintenance of an intentional learning environment. As part of a PK-12 campus, the dress code reflects our participation in a broad community consisting of many ages and cultures, as well as the frequent hosting of guests and visitors. Highland students dress to maintain decorum and embody respect for self and others.

Students are expected to look neat and well-groomed at all times. Hair for both boys and girls must be maintained in a conservative style, length, and color. For example, Mohawks and artificially colored hair are not allowed. Jewelry for boys and girls must be conservative and appropriate for the school setting. Nose rings, eyebrow rings or any facial rings are not permitted.

The Middle School Director is the final authority on all matters of “appropriateness” as it pertains to the dress code. **We understand that styles and fashions change quickly and thus strongly recommend asking the Middle School Director about any dress code questions that a student is not sure of.** This dialogue does a number of things. It helps the Director continually review and reflect on the dress code, it helps teach our students how to advocate for themselves and how to carefully think through a position or point that they want to make, and it ensures that families don’t purchase items that students are not allowed to wear under the dress code. All dress code attire can be purchased from local retailers (example: Land’s End, Target, Old Navy, & department stores). Athletic clothing can be purchased at our in-house Hawk’s Nest store and gently used dress code items can be found at our Highland Uniform Exchange closet; both are located in the Highland Middle School building.

Item	For Whom	Requirements
<b>Polo Shirts</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Solid light blue, white, yellow or navy permitted for grades 5-7</li> <li>● Any solid color for grade 8</li> <li>● Must be tucked in at all times</li> <li>● Must have two or three-buttons</li> <li>● *Short-sleeved polo with or without the school logo *now allowed to be worn in the building all year.</li> </ul> <p>Students must be prepared to go outside during the fall and winter months during recess weather permitting so having a jacket available will be important in staying warm outside. Forgetting a jacket will not be a reason for staying inside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Long-sleeved polo with or without the school logo</li> </ul>
<b>Button Down Shirts</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Solid light blue, white, yellow or navy permitted.</li> <li>● Any solid color for grade 8</li> <li>● Collared button-down</li> <li>● Neckties required for boys when wearing a button down shirt</li> <li>● Cotton or cotton blend fabrics</li> <li>● Must be tucked in at all times</li> </ul>
<b>Undershirts (Not required)</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No logos or designs</li> <li>● White only</li> </ul>
<b>Sweaters</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Solid single color sweaters in any color permitted for 5 and 6</li> <li>● Multi-colored sweaters permitted for grades 7 &amp; 8</li> <li>● V-neck/crew neck pullover or cardigan</li> <li>● Sweaters must be long enough to cover the belt</li> <li>● Must be full sweaters. Fleece pullovers with a sweater-knit face not dress code.</li> </ul>

<b>Sweatshirts &amp; Fleece</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No sweatshirts with a hood</li> <li>● **Official “Highland” fleece only.</li> <li>● Sweatshirt &amp; fleeces must be long enough to cover the belt</li> <li>● Vineyard Vines Shep Shirt in single dress code colors allowed</li> </ul>
<b>Outerwear</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outerwear is permissible during morning and lunch break only</li> <li>● Outerwear should remain in student’s lockers for the remainder of the school day</li> </ul>
<b>Slacks</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Navy or Khaki</li> <li>● *any solid color for 8<sup>th</sup> grade with blue or white shirt</li> <li>● Cotton, cotton blend fabrics, or corduroy</li> <li>● No satin, shiny, denim, or stretchy fabrics</li> <li>● No carpenter pants or cargo style pockets</li> <li>● No “skinny” cut, “matchstick” or leggings</li> <li>● No skin tight or low riders (on the hips)</li> </ul>
<b>Skirts/Skort</b>	Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Navy or Khaki</li> <li>● *any solid color for 8<sup>th</sup> grade with blue or white shirt</li> <li>● Cotton, cotton blend fabrics, or corduroy</li> <li>● No shorter than 3 inches above the knee and no longer than mid-calf</li> <li>● No oversized outside pockets – for example, no cargo shorts</li> <li>● No skirts/skort with a slit</li> </ul>
<b>Shorts</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● September, October, April, May &amp; June only</li> <li>● Khaki or Navy</li> <li>● *any solid color for 8<sup>th</sup> grade with blue or white shirt</li> <li>● Knee-length Bermuda (length is 3 inches above the knee to the middle of the knee) shorts</li> <li>● General rule of thumb –** if the shorts are more than the length of a 3 x 5 index card (held horizontally) above the knee, they are too short.</li> <li>● Cargo shorts are not dress code.</li> </ul>
<b>Belts</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Canvas or leather</li> <li>● Slacks with a belt loop must be worn with a belt</li> </ul>
<b>Shoes</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Black, brown, navy blue or grey</li> <li>● Flats, loafers, or oxfords</li> <li>● Most “Sperry’s” &amp; “Toms” are allowed</li> <li>● Shoes must be worn and tied at all times</li> <li>● Dress shoes – sneakers are not dress code</li> </ul>
<b>Socks or Tights</b>	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Girls must wear socks or tights at all times</li> <li>● Boys must wear socks at all times</li> </ul>
<b>PE &amp; Sports Uniforms</b>  **Hawk’s Nest Store purchase.	Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Highland gym shorts and t-shirts</li> <li>● Highland gym sweatshirts and sweatpants</li> <li>● A pair of sneakers (non-floor marking) to leave in their gym bag</li> <li>● Water bottle</li> <li>● Mouth guard, shin guards and cleats if applicable</li> <li>● Highland sports bag</li> </ul>

### Athletic Team Wear

On home game days, members of a Highland School athletic team may wear their jerseys over a plain white or blue t-shirt. Students must wear dress code pants/shorts or skirts and shoes. Team sports jackets/warm ups (no hoodies) may be worn over dress code clothes on away game/match days only.

## **Dress Down Days**

Students may wear clothing of their choice on dress down days. However, they may not wear ripped or frayed clothes, leggings, PJ bottoms, tank tops (no sleeveless shirts allowed), overly revealing attire (anything that shows a bare midriff when arms are lifted above the head, cleavage, or shorts or pants worn low to reveal underwear), shirts with inappropriate language, advertising for alcohol, or tobacco products, or flip flops. Students can wear Highland Sweatpants or plain blue, black, or grey sweatpants on dress down days. These sweatpants must be appropriate and students who push the boundaries will be asked to change and could lose their next dress down day. Length of shorts must meet dress code requirements. Students grow so quickly at this age and as the length of sports shorts seem to get shorter and shorter these days the length of shorts on dress down days for girls is one of our biggest challenges. We realize that styles and fashions have changed and in working with students last year we accepted a student proposal that allows for athletic shorts to be worn (see example photo below) that are a little shorter than the previous 3 inches above the knee. These athletic shorts must be at least half way down from the top of the knee from the hip. Please make sure that regular khaki shorts are still dress code length (3 inches above the knee) and that any sports shorts worn meet the new standards. If you don't have sports shorts that are long enough you can always wear jeans or other types of shorts. Students may wear shorts only during the summer dress code, meaning that during the winter dress code students may not wear shorts on dress down days. Shoe heel height may be no more than 2 inches, and caps/hats or winter jackets may not be worn in the building.



We want students to enjoy the dress down days without engaging in a constant struggle to keep attire appropriate as the focus needs to be on school and who our students are rather than on what they are or are not wearing. Please read over the dress code carefully and then ask Mr. Ormiston if you have any questions. We'll work with students on all dress code concerns, but students who repeatedly push the boundaries of what is appropriate could lose the privilege.