

Dress Code 2009 – 2010

Dress Code Philosophy

Clothing reflects the culture of the school. A dress code reminds students that school is a serious working environment. Students are expected to dress and groom themselves in a way that reflects traditional standards of **neatness, moderation, modesty, and appropriateness for school**. Clothing may reflect individual taste, but it is inappropriate to wear clothing to school that was designed for either a more casual or a more formal environment. Overly casual or revealing clothing not only distracts from academics, but is inconsiderate of other people's sensibilities and attitudes. The dress code is in effect from the time students walk through the doors of the school in the morning until the end of the academic day, even if students are out-of-doors. We expect your cooperation concerning this important matter. If you are in doubt as to whether a particular garment is acceptable or not, follow the guidelines below and **ask before you wear it**. **Extremes** in fashion, hairstyle or hair color are unacceptable.

Below are guidelines for all Upper School students to observe. The interpretation of these guidelines will at all times remain in the hands of the Dean of Students and the Upper School Director. Our primary goal is that our students dress appropriately for school.

Men

- A collared shirt such as polo/golf shirts and button-down oxfords. Shirts are to be firmly **tucked in** at the waist and buttoned to the second button.
- Trousers, slacks, or shorts of appropriate length (September until Homecoming; April 15- The End of the School Year)
- Slacks with belt loops must be worn with a belt.
- Blazers, sport coats, sweaters and official Highland sweatshirts must be worn with a collared shirt.
- Face must be clean-shaven.

Women

- A collared shirt or blouse such as polo/golf shirts, oxford shirts, or jackets with collars must be worn at all times. Sleeveless shirts and blouses are not allowed. Girls must always wear a collar. The only exception to this rule applies to dresses on dress up day.
- Girls' blouses and shirts, which are not designed to be tucked in, must cover the waistband and must not have the conventional "tails" of boys' shirts. There shall be no bare midriffs.
- Trousers, slacks, or shorts of appropriate length (September until Homecoming; April 15- The End of the School Year).
- Slacks with belt loops must be worn with a belt.
- Dresses with sleeves and collars, skirts, or jumpers of appropriate length

Both Men and Women

- Clothes, which comply with the dress code, may be of any color or fabric except blue denim, mesh, or terry cloth.
- "V"-neck sweaters or sweatshirts may be worn only with a clearly visible collared shirt or blouse underneath.
- **SWEATERS, HIGHLAND WIND JACKETS or SWEATSHIRTS (NO HOODIES)** must be worn over a **collared** dress code shirt.

- Coats, fleece vests, or jackets may be worn inside the school building but must be worn with a collared shirt.
- All clothes must be neat, clean, and without holes.

Shoes

- Shoes must be well structured with either full covering in the front or supportive straps in the back.
- Casual shoes in brown or black are appropriate.
- All shoes must be neat and clean and without holes or tears.
- Plastic or rubber-strapped shoes, slippers, or flip flops of **any kind** are not permitted.

Shorts

(September until Homecoming; April 15- The End of the School Year): Tailored, knee-length, Bermuda-style shorts or capris. Shorts and capris with belt loops must be worn with a belt.

Hair

Hair should be neatly groomed, and longer hair should be combed away from the face or worn in a ponytail.

Here is a Short List of What is NOT PERMITTED

- Hats, caps or bandannas in the building
- Pajamas, slippers, or clothes resembling underwear
- Visible body piercing other than ears
- Clothing with promotional advertising beyond normal product insignia like “Nike” or “LaCoste.” Only Highland logo sweatshirts (no hood) are permitted
- Any other “over garment” (e.g. flannel shirt) unless it follows the guidelines stated above.
- Midriff tops, bare midriff or midriff visible when arms are lifted above the head
- Cleavage, bare shoulders, or strapless shirts, dresses, or blouses.
- Tank tops or t-shirts
- Sheer fabrics, blue denim, mesh, or terry cloth.
- Cargo or carpenter-style pants
- Pants made to be zipped apart
- Pants with a drawstring or elastic waist: sweat or athletic pants or shorts.
- Plastic or rubber-strapped shoes, slippers, athletic shoes specifically designed for sporting activities, or flip flops of **any kind** are not permitted.

Dress Down Days

Men and women: All general prohibitions apply. The following exceptions are allowed: Denim, Highland-logo athletic apparel, athletic shoes, knee-length shorts, t-shirts, hoodies, flip flops, and casual sandals. **Dress Down Day Dress Code applies to Exam Period Dress.**

Dress-Up Days

On dress-up days and other special occasions students are asked to dress in more formal attire.

Men: Shirts with a tie and dress pants with a sport jacket or blazer and dress shoes with socks. Jackets must be worn all day.

Women: Dresses, dress code shirts with skirts, dress slacks with blazer, or suits in a formal style and dress shoes.

Disciplinary Action: Students are subject to disciplinary action for not adhering to the dress code.

- 1. Students who are in egregious violation of the dress code will be given two options: acquire a change of clothes from home or wear appropriate clothing from the Dean's Office.**
- 2. The first time a student is out of dress code, parents will be notified.**
- 3. The second time a student is out of dress code, he/she will lose lunch privileges.**
- 4. The third time a student is out of dress code, he/she will receive a detention.**

Compliance with the Dress Code will be the final decision of the Dean of Students or her designated representative.