

Highland School Dress Code 2018-2019 (5.9.2018MK)

The culture of Highland's Upper 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.

While the dress code is organized into three categories -- Regular Dress, Professional Dress, and Casual Dress -- several expectations apply every school day:

- Clothing for school is expected to be neat, without rips, holes, or tears; have modest neck and hem lines; and cover the shoulders, torso, and upper leg.
- Faces are expected to be clean-shaven.
- Extremes in fashion, appearance, and hair style/color are not permitted; nor is attire with unsuitable logos, messages, or images.
- For decorum and courtesy, hats are not worn in the building.
- Tailored shorts that fall to mid-thigh are appropriate only on Casual Dress days in season, from April 15 to October 15.
- The dress code is in effect for the entire school day.

As with other aspects of the Upper School, the dress code imparts a degree of freedom. With that freedom comes the responsibility of measured judgment and personal accountability. Students whose choices do not align with the principles, boundaries, and spirit of the dress code may be advised of their lapse, lose casual dress privileges, serve lunch detentions, or face other sanctions as determined by the Dean of Students. Compliance with the dress code will be the final decision of the Dean of Students.

Regular Dress

Since Regular Dress Days establish the norm for dress code expectations, students must maintain high standards. Students may wear dresses or tailored pants or skirts, which may be paired with tucked-in collared shirts, blouses, or sweaters with modest crew necklines, or quarter zip pullovers. Closed-toe shoes, including athletic shoes, or structured sandals are appropriate footwear.

Professional Dress

The guiding principle for Professional Dress clothing is that it should be suitable for a college or business interview. Appropriate attire includes tailored dress pants with tucked-in, collared button-down shirts with a tie, business-appropriate dresses or skirt-and-blouse ensembles with modest necklines and length, or tailored pants with professional blouses. If students are wearing tailored pants, then blazers should be worn to Assembly. Professional-dress footwear includes closed-toe shoes and structured sandals; not athletic shoes.

Casual Dress

Students may earn the privilege of Casual Dress through consistent compliance with the expectations of the dress code for the week. Casual Dress is similar to Regular Dress, but it is only on Casual Dress days that students may wear jeans, t-shirts, or hooded sweatshirts. Moreover, it is only Casual Dress days that students may pair leggings with a top that falls to mid-thigh. All of the norms of Regular Dress and the overall principles of the dress code remain in effect on Casual Dress days.

When in doubt, students are advised to return to the fundamental principle of discernment. The dress code communicates Highland's values as an academic environment and is an outward sign of the thoughtfulness and accountability Highland School seeks to cultivate in each member of the community. Students and parents with any questions are encouraged to consult the Dean of Students.