

Upper School Dress Code 26-27

Purpose

At PCA, we focus on honoring God and growing each student's potential, joyfully and as a community. In doing so, we hold that a student's individuality is more properly expressed by what he or she does and believes than by what is worn. In short, the heart of the child is far more important than how one chooses to adorn one's body. Clothing, at its best, enables service, learning, and community. Neatness, good grooming, and modest fashions are appropriate in a school that encourages students to focus attention on the most meaningful matters.

The purpose of this dress code is to offer students several options of comfortable, attractive, and reasonably priced clothing that will reflect well on the students, their families, and the school as we seek to fulfill PCA's mission and vision together. Our clothing, both students' and faculty members', should enhance that end.

Our dress code is designed to support the many things we do at PCA in clear, concise language that everyone can understand and support. We do not want extremes, and we do not expect students or families to test the limits of the policy. **The key to implementing the dress code is the fit and style of the clothing.** Variations from the options provided are not acceptable. Our suggestion is to err on the side of conservative dress, hairstyle, and clothing accessories. If in doubt, please ask the dress code question before the item in question is worn to school or a school event. Grace is given in all cases, especially when the student and family are trying to live within the spirit of the dress code.

Concept

This dress code policy contains information concerning the acceptable styles, colors, and combinations of clothing for males and females across the Upper School. Families and students are free to choose from several options within each category of dress.

General Structure and Dress Code

The Upper School has three broad categories of dress with generic expectations that apply to each category. Each Category supports enhancing the purpose of the key activity of the day:

General Standards:

- Neatness: Students are expected to dress neatly and present themselves in a way that reflects respect for themselves and others.
- Cleanliness: Clothing should be clean and in good condition, free from stains, tears, offensive language, political slogans or messaging, or imagery.
- Modesty: All clothing should be modest and not revealing. This includes avoiding clothing that is low-cut, sheer, or exposes undergarments.

General/Grooming:

- Branding on all clothing must display appropriate and positive qualities or slogans that are aligned with PCA's mission and core values.
- Men's/Women's hair must be of a modest style, well-kept and neatly groomed. Unnatural colors of hair must be muted and not outrageous.
- Men's hair should remain off their eyebrows and collars, and their facial hair should be well-kept and neatly groomed.

- Tattoos are not permitted.

Accessories:

- Items such as notebooks, folders or backpacks should display appropriate and positive qualities or slogans that are aligned with PCA's mission and core values.
- Outerwear may be worn outside but may not be worn in classrooms.
- Hats/caps are not allowed in any building during the school day (exemptions may be made for spirit or service days) and if worn in the building will be confiscated immediately.
- Female students are permitted to have tasteful piercing in their ears. Nose piercings are out of dress code. Males are not permitted to have any piercings.

A) Chapel/Business/Special Occasion

For special occasions (Veterans Day Chapel; National Day of Prayer, etc.), a more elevated dress code is expected to reflect the solemnity and reverence of these events. Families and students will be notified when Special Occasion Dress is required.

The following guidelines apply specifically to chapel dress:

- **Men:**
 - Solid colored dress pants
 - Students may choose the color of the dress pants from these approved colors:
 - Khaki
 - Black
 - Gray
 - Navy Blue
 - A collared dress shirt and a tie are required.
 - Solid colored black or brown belts of solid or braided texture, with a non-descript buckle must be worn
 - Shirts must remain tucked in throughout the school day
 - Dress shoes and socks must be worn, with no visible sports branding. (Sneakers are not permitted)
 - Student options that may be worn with a dress shirt, belt, tie, dress shoes, socks, and dress pants include:
 - Blazers or sport coats
 - Solid colored crew neck, v-neck, and $\frac{3}{4}$ zip sweaters and cardigans
- **Women:**
 - Dresses or skirts should be of fingertip length and fit appropriately.
 - Dress pants are also acceptable.
 - Business formal blouses and dresses should have sleeves and cover the shoulders and chest adequately. **Note:** T-shirts are not approved tops for these occasions.
 - Students may choose the color/pattern of the blouses, pants, dresses and skirts from the approved color and patterns:
 - Blouses/Dresses/Skirts: solid colors, or those with simple patterns
 - Pants:

- Solid Colors Only
 - Khaki
 - Black
 - Gray
 - Navy Blue
- Dress shoes or sandals
- Student options that may be worn with a dress, skirt, dress pants or blouse include:
 - Solid colored crew neck, V-neck, $\frac{3}{4}$ zip sweaters, and cardigans

B) Everyday/Class.

Students and families should expect this on most days. If not announced otherwise, in school communications or in the school calendar, this is the expected dress category for the day.

Tops:

- Women:
 - Women must wear solid colored or simple patterned (Ex. Floral, striped, checked, small plaids) shirts that are modest, cover the torso, and are not low cut.
 - Women may wear sleeveless shirts provided that the straps on sleeveless shirts are at least three fingers wide.
- Men:
 - Men must wear solid colored or simple patterned (Ex. striped, checked, small plaids) collared shirts.
- Men/Women:
 - Sweaters of solid color or simple patterns (checked, striped, argyle) may be worn over a dress code appropriate top.
 - Crew neck and $\frac{3}{4}$ zip sweatshirts may be worn over a dress code appropriate top
 - Hoodies, graphic t-shirts, tank tops, tube tops, crop tops, and low-cut or plunging necklines are **NOT** allowed.

Bottoms:

- **Men:**
 - Solid colored style pants or shorts that are sized to fit may be worn
 - Solid colored black or brown belts of solid or braided texture, with a non-descript buckle must be worn
- **Women:**
 - Solid colored or simple patterned, pants, skirts, shorts, rompers, and dresses that are sized to fit
 - Solid colored yoga pants, jeggings, and leggings are appropriate **ONLY** when worn under skirts or dresses with hemlines that are not shorter than fingertip length
- **Men and Women:**
 - Hemlines, for the whole circumference of a dress, skirt or shorts may not be shorter than finger-tip length when standing
 - Bottoms must be in good shape without holes, tears, or frays. Ripped or torn bottoms are not appropriate.
 - Sweatpants, joggers, or athletic pants/shorts are **NOT** permitted

Footwear:

- Sneakers, dress shoes, boots, sandals, and flip flops are permitted

- Footwear must be worn at all times, with the exception of specific activities approved by the administration.
- Footwear should be appropriate for a school environment and promote safety.

C) Athletics/Work/Outdoor/Casual.

Students and families should expect this dress episodically at the Upper School. Special weeks (such as Homecoming) would have their own themes and would fall into this category. **Note:** certain events like service days may require a more specific dress and those expectations would be communicated to both parents and students two weeks in advance.

Tops:

- T-Shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts (crew, $\frac{3}{4}$ zip or hooded) and other tops of any color or pattern may be worn so long as they meet the following criteria:
 - The top is related to the theme or fits the purpose of the day
 - The content on the top is appropriate and reflects PCA's values
 - Tops must be modest, cover the torso, and not be low cut.
 - Women may wear sleeveless shirts provided the straps on sleeveless shirts are at least three fingers wide
 - Tank tops, tube tops, crop tops, and low-cut or plunging necklines are **NOT** allowed.

Bottoms:

- Students may wear pants, shorts, skirts, or dresses related to the theme or activity
- Sweatpants or athletic shorts may be worn
- Bottoms should adhere to the general dress code guidelines in terms of appropriateness and modesty

Footwear:

- Students may wear shoes, sneakers, sandals or other footwear related to the theme or appropriate for the day's activities.
- Shoes should be clean and in good condition.

Accessories:

- Students may wear accessories, hats, or headwear related to the theme, as long as they do not obstruct others' view, pose a safety risk or violate the dress code general standards
- Accessories should be non-offensive and non-distracting.

D) Competition Day Dress Code.

- On competition days athletes may wear their team jersey tops with dress code appropriate bottoms, footwear and accessories.
 - **Note:** Note sleeveless jerseys may be worn so long as a school-colored t-shirt is worn underneath
- Athletes may change into their full uniforms upon dismissal for their competition.

Enforcement:

- PCA staff and faculty members are the sole and final arbiters of the dress code and are responsible for monitoring and enforcing the dress code.
- Students not in compliance with the dress code will be provided with appropriate reminders and may be asked to modify their attire or change into appropriate clothing if available.

- Repeated or intentional violations of the dress code will result in a student's parents being notified and further disciplinary action, as outlined in the school's code of conduct.