



## Uniform and Dress Code

*Excerpted from the Veritas Prep Family Handbook, 2016-2017:*

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The Academy has a primary objective of developing a "community of learners," dedicated to the highest standards of academics and deportment. As such, a distinctive uniform is a unifying factor within our school community. It is also a visible signature of our school to the larger community, an indicator of our unity and of our pride of purpose. This is one of the most important functions of a uniform: it identifies its wearer as part of a distinctive group with a distinctive purpose. It is a reminder to its wearer of that purpose and of one's responsibility to that group. Our school is also committed to the development of individual personality and character-- not through the external 'expressions' of dress and appearance, which can easily be purchased or affected, and which can quickly divide students through the power of snap judgments and prejudices—but through personal qualities, virtues, quirks and traits. It seems countercultural to assert this in our age, but the Academy holds that the school uniform is an essential condition for cultivating genuine individuality in the school community. It is not this or that particular element of the uniform that "matters" more than any of the others; rather, the uniform as a whole is what matters.

While students are responsible for their clothing and appearance, it is the parents who are responsible for providing the conditions required for meeting the standard, e.g. haircuts, proper shoes, shirts, skirts and pants that fit properly, etc. Parents are urged to understand the uniform requirements below, and to ensure that their children go to school each day in the right attire, from head to toe. It is an uncomfortable experience for a child to be corrected for a uniform violation, and repeated uniform issues can become an enormous distraction for students.

The uniform is the basis of a dress code with a "professional," business-like standard. Our students should dress their best, look their best, and do their best. All clothing must be clean, neat, reasonably pressed, and in properly fitting condition. If a child is deemed to be wearing inappropriate attire, the parent will be notified and a change of clothing may be required for attendance that day. If in doubt about the appropriateness of an article of clothing, check with the school office before purchasing.

Decisions about the appropriateness of apparel may be referred to the dean of students, whose judgment will be final. The school will make specific exceptions to the dress code as required by particular religious customs; parents should address specific concerns to the Assistant Headmaster before the second week of school.

Other than the dress code requirements for school, there are special requirements for periodic, special events throughout the year, such as the "semi-formal" dress code for concert participation and the all-school awards ceremony. Please see page 47 of the Handbook for an exact definition of how the Academy defines "semi-formal" attire.

*Dennis and Anton Uniforms set the standard for the kind of pants, shorts, and shirts that are required, but such clothing may be purchased elsewhere. However, both the uniform skirts and sweaters must be purchased at Dennis and Anton Uniforms. If the cost of the uniform presents a financial hardship for your family, please contact the school office for assistance.*

**Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus (including the parking lot) during a school day. This means arriving on campus *fully* in uniform and leaving campus *fully* in uniform (correct shoes, shirts tucked in, etc.). Students may only change out of uniform after school with teacher/coach permission to participate in an approved curricular or extracurricular activity that requires an immediate change in dress.**

## *All Students: Shirts and Outerwear*

### **Shirts:**

- Solid white or navy, collared, knit polo shirt (two- or three-button, with or without a breast pocket--no logos of any kind, except the Academy logo) or a white oxford button-down dress shirt, short or long sleeved.
- Only the top button may be unbuttoned.
- **The polos of 6th-10th grade students must have the VPA logo.**
- Athletes may wear a white dress shirt and tie on their game days.
- Undershirts must be solid white and their sleeves may not extend beyond those of the short-sleeved polo or oxford shirt.
- *Shirts must always be tucked in, and shirttails must be long enough to stay tucked in.*

### **Outerwear**

- All outerwear must be clean and free of tears.
- A solid navy ¾-zip pullover (with Academy logo), solid navy sweater, or solid navy sweater-vest may be worn in the classroom and must be purchased from Dennis or Anton Uniform for the sake of consistency.
- High school students may wear blazers of the type sold at Dennis Uniform. If wearing a blazer, students may wear a red tie.
- Academy-issued athletic letter jackets or sweaters may also be worn in the classroom.
- Jackets, sweaters, and non-Academy sweatshirts may be worn for warmth outdoors during lunch but must be free of prominent logos and advertisements. These garments may not be worn into or brought into the classrooms; they must be stored in lockers during and between classes, other than during the lunch period.
- A uniform shirt (as specified under “Shirts”) must be worn under the sweater or pullover and must be tucked in, and a belt must still be worn (where applicable). Violation of either of the above rules may result in revocation of the student’s permission to wear the sweater or pullover for that year.
- No oversized, baggy, or tight-fitting clothing.
- No tattoos, temporary or permanent. (This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin.)

## *Boys’ Uniform and Dress Code*

### **Boys’ Pants/Shorts:**

- Khaki slacks that reach to the shoe but are not dragging on the ground. (No denim, corduroy, or other casual wear. No patch pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams.)
- From August to Fall Break and Spring Break to May, khaki walking shorts, with a belt, may be worn in high school. Middle school students may wear these shorts year round.
- No oversized, baggy, or tight-fitting (skinny) pants.
- Must be worn at the waist (and no boxers or undergarments may be visible – including at sports practices and games).
- Must have belt loops and be worn with a dark, solid-colored dress belt.
- Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below.

### **Boys’ Footwear:**

- Dark, solid-colored, low-heeled, low-soled dress shoes or loafers with dark laces and soles, and solid-colored (white, dark or tan) socks.
- Dark Sperrys and boat-shoes, as long as they meet these criteria, are permitted.
- No high-top shoes, boots, sandals, athletic shoes, or skateboard shoes. Athletic shoes will be permitted only during official school athletic activities.
- Socks must be visible above the entire shoe; knee socks are not permitted with shorts.

**Boys' Hair:**

- Hair should be neatly trimmed and combed; no gel-mussed or long spiked hair-styles.
- Hair must be well off the top of the shirt collar, and it may not cover the ears, hang below the eyebrows, or be long enough to bring into a ponytail.
- No shaved heads. Crew cuts are permitted, but the head must not appear shaved, nor scalp be visible.
- No mohawks, rat's tails, or braids.
- No hairnets or bandanas. No dyed or bleached hair. No artificial changes in hair color during the school year.
- Sideburns may not descend below the earlobe.
- No facial hair: students must be clean-shaven.

**Boys' Jewelry:**

- A tasteful, simple necklace may be worn inside the shirt and should not be visible.
- A total of one watch and one ring are permissible. Both must be tasteful.
- Jewelry should not be distracting or dangerous.
- No nose-rings, earrings, or other body-piercing jewelry.
- No wrist bracelets or anklets.

**Boys' Headwear:**

- Hats, bandanas, and sunglasses are not permitted indoors or in the courtyard and must be stored in student lockers during the school day.

***Girls' Uniforms and Dress Code*****Girls' Skirt:**

- Plaid Academy uniform skirt, available at Dennis or Anton Uniform in two styles.
- Hem may be no higher than the top of the knee cap, both in front and in back.
- Must be worn at the waist.

**Girls' Pants/Shorts:**

- Khaki slacks that reach to the shoe but are not dragging on the ground. (No denim, corduroy, or other casual wear. No patch pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams.)
- From August to Fall Break and Spring Break to May, khaki walking shorts, with a belt, may be worn, for high school students. Middle school may wear these shorts year round.
- No oversized, baggy, or tight-fitting (skinny) pants or shorts.
- Must be worn at the waist (and no boxers or undergarments may be visible – including at sports practices and games).
- Must have belt loops and be worn with a dark, solid-colored dress belt.
- Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below.

**Girls' Footwear:**

- Dark, solid-colored, low-heeled (1.5" – 2"), low-soled or flat, loafers or dress shoes with dark laces and soles.
- Dark Sperrys and boat-shoes, as long as they meet these criteria, are permitted.
- Girls may wear solid-colored black, navy, or white nylons, tights, or socks.
- No open-toed or open-heeled shoes or sandals.
- Sneakers, tennis or jogging shoes will be permitted only during official school athletic activities.
- Socks must be visible above the entire shoe; knee socks should not come above the knees.

**Girls' Jewelry:**

- Girls may wear *one* pair of short earrings only on the ear lobes. ("Short" means that the earrings should not hang more than ½ inch below the ear lobe.)

- Large hoops or other dangling or distracting earrings are not permitted. Loops are not to be larger than the size of a nickel.
- No other body-piercing jewelry is permitted.
- One simple ring on each hand is permitted, as well as one wrist bracelet, one watch, and one simple necklace.
- Necklace must be simple, fine-gauged, 16- to 20- inch, silver or gold chain with or without a small, simple pendant
- No ankle bracelets.

#### **Girls' Makeup:**

- Makeup should be applied tastefully and in moderation. Heavily lined eyes or gaudy lipstick, glittered or white-powdered faces will not be permitted.
- Fingernails may only be painted in colors close to one's skin tone. Fingernails should not be excessively long or painted garishly.

#### **Girls' Hair:**

- Hair should be neatly combed or styled.
- No shaved heads.
- Tasteful bows, barrettes, headbands, and "scrunchies," in the colors (or the plaid) of the uniform skirt, are permissible.
- Hair should not be arranged or colored so as to draw undue attention to the student.
- Hair must be natural-looking and conservative in its color (no bleaching or unnatural streaking/highlighting, no deep/bright reds or oranges, no artificial jet-black coloring, and no unnatural colors). No artificial changes in hair color during the school year.

#### **Girls' Headwear:**

- Hats, bandanas, and sunglasses are not permitted indoors or in the courtyard and must be stored in student lockers.

### **Non-uniform Dress Code for Special Events**

#### ***Athletic Practice and Outdoor Field Day Dress Code***

Just as the Academy provides guidelines for dress code in the classroom, it is important to project the image of professionalism in our athletic attire as well. Students not in compliance with the non-academic dress code guidelines outlined below may not be allowed to participate in an activity.

- All shirts worn for athletic practices and field day should be modest, loose fitting, in good repair (no holes, torn sleeves, etc), should be worn either tucked in or well over the waist of the pants/shorts.
- No midriffs may be shown.
- T-shirts are preferred—no tank tops, camisoles, or sports bras may be worn as outer-garments. Sleeveless shirts may be worn if modest.
- Pants/shorts should be modest, in good repair (no holes, torn sleeves, etc.)
- Shorts must be worn at the waist and may not be shorter than mid-thigh or longer than just below the knee. No boxers or undergarments may be visible. No oversized, baggy, or excessively tight pants.
- Attire should be free of inappropriate messages; sports team logos (e.g., Diamondbacks, Notre Dame), and apparel brand names (e.g., Adidas, Abercrombie) are acceptable, provided they do not make inappropriate allusions. These guidelines also apply to sweatshirts and jackets that students may wear.
- Footwear should be athletic in nature: no sandals, open-toed, or platform shoes.
- Hats and sunscreen may be appropriate, if the students will be in the sun. Hat styles should follow the same guidelines as above.

### ***Semi-formal Events Dress Code***

There are specific, semi-formal dress requirements for special events, including periodic fine arts concerts and the end-of-year ceremonies (such as commencement and graduation).

**Concert dress** is, for boys and girls, white and black.

- Boys wear white collared dress shirts with black slacks and black dress shoes.
- Girls wear a white blouse with a black skirt or black dress slacks and black dress shoes (reasonable heels less than 2" are permitted). Black tights must be worn with skirts. The black skirt or dress slacks must be loose-fitting and the skirt must follow the length guidelines of the school skirt outlined above.

The **semi-formal dress code for boys** is:

- Dress slacks (no jeans or patched pocket pants)
- Collared dress shirt
- Dark socks
- Dress shoes (no sneakers or sandals)
- No dyed hair or hats
- Hair should be trimmed appropriately
- For commencement, graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders must wear a tie

The **semi-formal dress code for girls** is as follows:

- modest-length skirts or dresses with hems no more than 2" above the knee, or appropriately fitting dress slacks
- bare midriffs are not acceptable
- Modestly cut sleeveless tops/dresses are allowed
- ladies may not wear strapless, spaghetti-strap, or tank tops
- Girls should wear dress shoes
- No flip-flops
- No dyed hair or hats