

## Middle School Dress Code

Recognizing that the vagaries of fashion can be unduly expensive and often fuel competition among students, we wish to avoid these distractions by promoting a dress code that reflects our desire for students to be neat, clean, and comfortable while attending school. The guidelines below outline our expectations for student dress and grooming. The dress code is in effect during the academic day.

Middle School students are expected to respect the spirit of the dress code, not simply the letter of the code. Students whose dress is inappropriate for school may receive a disciplinary consequence and may be required to change clothing for the day. We understand that some students have cultural or religious values that may not align with our dress code. Students are encouraged to discuss proposed alternatives with the grade-level dean.

There are three types of dress days in the Middle School: regular dress, special dress, and casual dress. Regular dress applies to every school day unless told otherwise by teachers and the administration.

Uniform items can be ordered at the [McDonogh School Store](#). Select items are also available at Land's End.

### **Regular Dress:**

- Dress cotton twill pants in khaki, black, or stone. Jean, bell-bottom, jeggings, or cargo styles are not permitted.
- Dress cotton twill skort (girls) in khaki, black, stone, or the approved McDonogh plaid (available at Arthur's Uniforms and Lands' End). Skorts should be fingertip-length or longer (i.e. when standing with arms hanging naturally by one's side, the skort falls at or below the fingertips). Note: skirts are not permitted.
- Polo shirts, short- and long-sleeved, in white, maroon, or hunter (available at the McDonogh School Store or Land's End with the McDonogh logo).
- **Second Layer Tops: Students may wear any McDonogh branded black, gray, orange or white long-sleeved sweatshirt, jacket, quarter-zip, sweater, or vest.** No other second layers are permitted.
- Coats will not be worn throughout the school day.
- Belts must be worn any time belt loops are present.
- Socks must be worn and visible from the shoe line. Black leggings (full-length or capri length) are permitted under skorts. Solid-colored tights in white, black, or navy are permitted; no pattern is permitted on the tights (i.e., lace, stripes, etc.).
- Shoes must be worn properly with laces tied. Closed toe and back are required. Conservative black, brown, or tan leather shoes are permitted. Athletic-style shoes of predominantly solid-colored white, black, dark blue, or gray are permitted. Brown or black boots are permitted with pants or with skorts when leggings are worn. Solid color rain boots in white, black, dark blue, or gray are permitted on rainy days.
  - The following are NOT permitted:

- canvas shoes
- shoes with a pattern
- heels taller than one inch

**Special Dress:**

- Navy blue blazer with McDonogh seal appropriately attached
- White or light blue oxford shirt with collar
- Khaki skirt (girls)
- Khaki or stone dress pants with belt
- Dress shoes (no boots)
- Solid black or white socks
- Solid navy sweater (no sweatshirts or other sweaters permitted)
- McDonogh tie (boys required; girls optional). McDonogh ties are available at the school store.

**Casual Dress:**

- All clothing must be appropriate in length and fit without holes or frays.
- Undergarments should not be visible.
- Shorts should have an inseam of at least two inches.
- Halter tops, camisoles, tube tops, spaghetti straps, or similar items that leave the back and shoulders bare are not permitted. Exceedingly tight shirts and low-cut or revealing necklines are not appropriate for school.
- An athletic jersey may be worn if a t-shirt is worn underneath.
- Sayings or logos on clothing must be appropriate.
- NO hats are to be worn in the building at any time.
- NO backless shoes or flip-flops.
- NO writing is permitted on the backside of shorts or pants.

**Other:** Girls may wear conservative jewelry. Dangle and hoop earrings should be no more than one inch long. No excessive make-up. Boys may wear one simple necklace; no other jewelry is permitted. No hats or bandanas may be worn during the school day. Hairstyles should be simple and neat. Boys' hair should be well-groomed and should not extend below the collar in the back, eyebrows in the front, and ear lobes on the sides. Student hair color should reflect natural hues at all times. Highlights, streaks, or dyes of any color not naturally seen in hair is not permitted. This includes shades of pink, blue, purple, green, etc.

**Note:** Extremes of fashion, as determined by the Middle School Administration, are not permitted. We reserve the right to revise the dress code at any time during the school year.