



## **College Pathways 7th-12th DRESS CODE POLICY 2022-2023**

The Board of Directors of The Classical Academy has established the overarching dress code policy guidance in [JICA- TCA-B](#). The dress code is an essential distinctive of the TCA academic culture.

### **The dress code impacts the school positively by:**

- fostering a distinct and positive TCA appearance.
- decreasing distractions.
- increasing wardrobe equity.
- supporting easy identification of visitors or strangers.
- giving parents and students an opportunity to demonstrate mutual support of TCA's core values and beliefs.
- teaching students the importance of self-discipline and personal responsibility.
- increasing group coherence and discouraging cliques or other forms of divisive or polarizing activities.

TCA students are required to follow the dress code guidance provided herein throughout the school day. The dress code is intended to promote safety, improve discipline, and enhance the overall learning environment. As we prepare students for future lives of service, scholarship, work, and leadership, we must prepare them to recognize and submit to all sorts of external standards. Universities and future employers may control their living conditions, set standards for work performance, or restrict their communications. In almost all communities, our students will be subject to a broad array of legal, financial, social, and practical standards. We use the school dress code as a concrete opportunity for our students to learn respectful compliance – and, when necessary, to accept natural consequences for poor decisions, helping our students learn how to live within the social world of rules and imposed standards. Properly adhering to the dress code also shows self-discipline, pride in oneself, and pride in TCA.

Students *may* be out of dress code before a scheduled class/activity if they are outside the buildings; however, students are required to be in dress code when they enter any TCA/CP building or after returning from classes at PPSC.

Students enrolled in one or more PPSC classes are not required to wear the TCA dress code while on the *college* campus. However, all CP students are expected to change into the appropriate TCA dress code immediately upon arrival (before any classes begin) on the CP campus. After 3:10 pm, students on campus may be out of dress code but must still be modestly and appropriately dressed. The dress code must be followed on field trips (and during off-campus classes such as the Outdoor Ed PE class) unless the administration approves otherwise. The dress code is not required for any evening or weekend activities unless specified by the administration or the activity supervisor.

### **Parent, Student, and Staff Responsibilities**

Parents are responsible to ensure that their students arrive at school in proper dress. Within the school, classroom teachers and other staff members will enforce compliance with the dress code. TCA/CP administrators will make final decisions regarding dress code issues. Cheerful, consistent compliance with policy by all is expected. Students need to take ownership of the dress code policy and, at the beginning of each day, be able to affirm, if asked, that they are in compliance with the policy and its intent. Because TCA's dress code policy is designed to promote our focus on academics and group solidarity, we trust teachers to make observations and judgment calls about whether a specific student is compliant with the letter *and* the spirit of this policy. If a student disagrees with a teacher's conclusions related to their policy compliance, that student should immediately and respectfully defer to the teacher by complying with the teacher's conclusion and then address the issue with the teacher respectfully after class.

## Consequences for Dress Code Violations

Dress code violations will be documented by the person making the decision. A student's first violation will result in a verbal warning and the warning will be documented. Any violations subsequent to the first warning may result in the student being sent to the office for dress code violations. If a student repeatedly violates the policy guidance, further disciplinary actions including suspensions may be invoked. If a student violates the dress code policy in a manner that cannot be immediately corrected, the staff member may require the student to call her/his parent or guardian and arrange for them to bring the clothing item(s) required to bring the student into compliance with the dress code. A staff member may require a student to remain in the school office until appropriate attire arrives.

## General Dress Code Guidance

- Students must present a neat appearance.
- Items of dress are to be of an appropriate size/fit, must be modest, and worn as intended by the policy.
- A student can be out of compliance for wearing non-approved items or by wearing approved items in a manner that is sloppy, immodest, or otherwise inappropriate.
- Appearance that is extreme, immodest, disruptive, distracting, profane, or disrespectful so that it would draw undue attention shall not be allowed. Included in distracting wear is clothing with statements, slogans, or conspicuous political, religious, or other symbols or references.
- TCA wear can only be purchased through the TCA on-line store via the link on the TCA website homepage or by clicking [here](#).

## Pants/Shorts/Skirts

- Pants/shorts/skirts must not have any visible logos, be form fitting or contoured to one's body shape, or be overly loose, have cargo pockets, have holes, be distressed, faded, or ripped.
- Pants/shorts/skirts must be of traditional solid conservative color (navy, khaki, brown, black, or grey).
- Students may not wear denim, with the exception of black or blue jeans that may be worn ONLY during scheduled Denim Days.
  - Included in the denim category are jean-like pants, which may or may not have external rivets intended to look like denim pants.
- The length of shorts will not be shorter than 4 inches above the top of the knee.
- The length of skirts/dresses will not be shorter than the top of the knee.
  - Solid neutral color leggings may be worn under appropriate length/approved skirts.
- No pants, shorts, or skirts may be made of fabric that stretches. Specific examples of prohibited fabrics include stretch denim, any stretchy jersey, knit, synthetic, or composite fabric that is designed to stretch and fit to the body shape of the wearer. Specific garments prohibited under this clarification include any "workout" or "yoga" stretch pants, "jeggings," shorts, or leggings and any skirt or skort with fabric that stretches or clings to the wearer.

## Shirts

- Shirts must only be polo (solid color) or oxford dress style (solid color and button up collared shirt).
- Shirts must not have visible logos (unless purchased from the TCA on-line store), be form fitting or contoured to one's body shape, overly loose, or have holes. (T-shirts, even with a TCA logo, are not permitted.)
- Shirts must be a solid color that is not excessively bright, distracting, or likely to draw undue attention.
  - During the school day, shirts must be tucked into the pants or skirts and reflect an acceptable standard of neatness and modesty. In lieu of tucking, girls may layer their shirts (when layering, the layered items must be visible and extend beyond the outer shirt). Shirts must be an appropriate length to reflect an acceptable standard of neatness and modest (no midriff showing).
  - Long sleeve thermal-type or t-shirts are not to be worn underneath short-sleeved polos or oxfords.
  - Sleeveless shirts and sheer material (any material that you can see through) are not acceptable.

## Sweaters/Sweatshirts/Jackets

These garments are designed to be worn over a shirt as a base layer and may be pullover, button, or zipper style.

- Sweaters:
  - Must not have visible logos, be form fitting or contoured to one's body shape, overly loose, or have holes.
  - Must be a solid color that is not excessively bright, distracting, or likely to draw undue attention.
  - Crew neck sweaters may be worn without a base layer shirt.
  - All v-neck sweaters must have a shirt collar visible underneath.
  - Cardigan sweaters may only be worn if over a collared shirt.
  - Open weave sweaters, where the skin and/or undergarments are visible, are prohibited.
  - Thermal type material shirts are not considered sweaters or sweatshirts and do not meet the intent of this dress code section.
- Sweatshirts, Hoodies, and Jackets:
  - Students may wear TCA-approved logo sweatshirts (hooded or not) and jackets with TCA-approved logos (including athletic team and co-curricular groups) within the school building.
  - All other non-CP/TCA sweatshirts, hoodies or jackets must be a traditional solid conservative color (navy, khaki, brown, black, or grey) and without logos.
  - Shirts, if worn under sweatshirts, must be tucked in.
  - Teachers may request a student remove CP/TCA-approved logo jackets within the classroom.
  - Hoods on hooded sweatshirts or jackets will not be worn during the school day.
  - A collared shirt must be worn under zippered (non-pullover) hoodies.

## Neckties/Scarves/Belts

- Students may wear neckties with oxford dress shirts.
  - If worn, neckties must be of standard length and properly tied.
  - Ties must be of coordinating colors and in good taste.
- Students may wear scarves that are of coordinating colors and in good taste.
- Students must wear belts, which may not have spikes or metal protrusions, and must be of coordinating colors and in good taste.
  - Buckles must be plain and not overly large.

## Footwear

- Students must wear footwear at all times.
- All footwear must be neat, clean, and appropriate for an educational environment.
- Footwear colors must not be overly bright or distracting.
  - For safety reasons, footwear cannot have spiked heels or heels greater than 2 inches in height.
- Socks, if worn, must be primarily of one color, without pattern.
- Tights/leggings, if worn, must be with uniform appropriate pants/shorts/skirts (listed above) and should be a solid neutral color without pattern.
- Shower/beach/athletic sandals/FiveFinger or barefoot shoes and/or flip-flops are not allowed.
  - A good guideline for sandals is that it is not allowed if it has a rubber sole. In the interest of simplicity and ease of identification, most sandal styles are allowed, but rubber/plastic flip flops or other rubber/plastic athletic slip-ons or beach/river-wear are prohibited.

## Hair and Accessories

- All students shall maintain their hair, mustaches, sideburns, and beards in a clean, well-groomed, neat, and trim manner.
- A student's hair shall be worn in a manner that is not in the student's eyes.
- Hats or baseball caps may not be worn during the school day.

## **Jewelry/Piercing/Tattoos**

- All jewelry must be conservative, non-offensive, and not draw undue attention from an outside visitor.
- Girls are allowed two earrings and one cartilage ring/stud in each ear.
  - No other visible piercing is allowed for girls.
- No visible piercings are allowed for boys.
- Visible tattoos are prohibited for all students in all school settings, including classroom, practice, competition, and performance settings.

## **PE Classes**

- Students may wear the following:
  - CP/TCA (PE, Sport, or Activity) t-shirt (crew neck with sleeves)
  - School color (blue, red, gray/silver, or black) shorts or sweatpants; if cold, CP/TCA hoodie or sweatshirt (school shorts need to be longer style – no shorter than 4” above the top of the knee)
  - Non-marking athletic shoes with tied laces; athletic socks
- Purchase approved athletic wear through the [TCA online store](#) or a sports/activities coach or club sponsor.

## **Special Dress Days**

On special occasions (only as scheduled by the school), student dress will be allowed to deviate from the above standards during designated dress days – see below. On these days, student dress must stay within the previous guidelines for modesty, fit, neatness, non- distracting, and non-offensive dress.

## **Casual Days**

On designated casual days (typically during Spirit Week or Cash 4 Casual), students may wear any themed garments or specifically designated wear (i.e. blue denim) that are **modest, non-offensive, without holes or “distressed” fabric, and are appropriate for our school environment.** Hats may be allowed at the discretion of individual classroom teachers. On casual days, students may wear denim shorts, skirts, or pants.

## **Dress-Up Days**

Note: previous guidance regarding modesty and fit apply for dress-up days also. Denim is never considered “dressy.”

On designated dress-up days (typically involving sports or activities contests/performances), students may dress up (not down) from typical dress code standards.

- Dressing up would include the following:
  - Dress slacks, dress shirts, ties, sweaters, sports coats, suits, belts, dark socks, and dress shoes.
  - Modest dress slacks, skirts, blouses, dresses, suits, sweaters, belts, and dress shoes/sandals. Spaghetti straps, strapless, or sleeveless dresses are not allowed.
- If team or activity t-shirts or warm-up tops are approved to wear, pants/shorts/skirts of traditional solid conservative color must still be worn (no denim).

## **Two-Hour Delays**

Periodically throughout the winter, school will be delayed two hours due to inclement weather. Since it’s likely that some students may be required to shovel snow, scrape ice, push cars, etc., students may wear blue or black jeans with a dress code top. Denim overalls are not permitted on these denim days. Note that two-hour delays days are not casual dress days, meaning bottoms can only be denim with no holes or “distressed” fabric and tops cannot have logos, graphics, etc.