

# 2020-2021 TILTON SCHOOL DRESS CODE

*Last Updated: July 24, 2020*

## INTRODUCTION

The goal of any dress code is to encourage students to see their daily attire as a means to prepare themselves for their daily work. Attire is a tool, like any other, in how we organize our community, how we relate to one another, and how we prepare ourselves for the work to be done. Specifically, the goals of Tilton's dress code include:

- Encourage students to learn that different activities and contexts call for different types of attire.
- Offer students the chance to practice dressing appropriately and comfortably.
- Ensure that students are dressed appropriately for full participation in classroom, science lab, studio, and other activities.
- Promote a shared experience and a shared sense of purpose.
- Allow wider choice for students of all genders.
- Make the dress code easy to follow and enforce.

## TYPES OF DRESS

As a result, some situations call for certain types of dress:

- **Class Dress:** During the academic day, students should be dressed appropriately for the classroom environment. Sweatpants, leggings, yoga pants, and other forms of explicitly athletic attire is prohibited. Sweatshirts are acceptable only if they are Tilton specific. Students should note that some classes may require additional restrictions on dress to ensure full participation or to promote safety.
- **Professional Dress:** Students are expected to raise their level of attire at times as a show of respect to one another (class presentations, for example) and to present the school's best face to its visitors. When Tilton is hosting guests—during first Friday speaking events, second visits, parents' weekends, for example—collared shirts, blouses, belts, and laced-shoes are encouraged; jeans, hemlines above the knee (including shorts), sport sandals, and sneakers are discouraged.
- **Other Forms of Dress:** On certain occasions throughout the year, at the discretion of the Head of School or the Dean of Students, students will be required to dress more formally. Similarly, some occasions or events may require

other forms of attire (e.g. dressing for the weather or for messy work). Athletic team coaches may establish their own standards for practice or game-day dress codes.

Garments or accessories that promote or advertise drugs, alcohol, or inappropriate words/images/ideals are prohibited. Hats and hoods are not to be worn indoors. Outerwear is to be removed during indoor activities.

Hemlines less than knee length (including shorts) are prohibited between October 15 and April 15. In the event of unseasonably warm temperatures, the Head of School or Dean of Students may announce an exception to this policy.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

Students in violation of dress code will be given a warning directly by a faculty member. This warning will also be shared with the Student Life Office. Upon a third infraction, students will be placed on a chore team. Subsequent infractions may result in detention or further disciplinary response.

### **OTHER GUIDANCE**

Dress codes are fraught with societal assumptions, implicit and overt bias, and the influence of both long-standing tradition and current trends. To inform their decisions about “appropriate” attire, students should understand that:

- Students of all genders should remain cognizant of their environment. Even when specific attire is not required, it is respectful to increase clothing coverage when encountering others in a personal or more intimate context (such as in hallways, common rooms, or during check-ins with dorm-parents.) Similarly, it is appropriate to increase coverage when entering public spaces, including main areas of campus, where one might encounter guests or visitors.
- Long pants/skirts and collars communicate a sense of greater formality. (For students of all genders, more coverage generally translates to greater formality.)
- Blue denim is viewed as more casual than other colors of denim.
- Clothing with words/phrases/pictures is considered more casual than clothing lacking these features.
- Some elements of “athletic” attire, such as hoodies, golf shirts, and baseball caps, are no longer considered explicitly athletic. However, Tilton still considers leggings, yoga pants, pajamas, sweatpants, rubber flip flops, and other loungewear inappropriate for class dress.

