

# Dress Code for Students

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## Our Philosophy of Dress

1. Humankind is made in God's image, and people should dress in ways that honor our Creator.
2. Simplicity, beauty, and order are goods given to God by mankind, and should be reflected in every area of our lives including the way we look.
3. Every part of the way we present ourselves is a form of communication.
4. Pressures felt to compete in areas of dress and appearance are distracting, expensive, and time-consuming. At worst, they are destructive to self-worth and healthy body image.
5. Education is a pursuit that is not merely of the mind: it requires the participation of a rested, comfortable, and presentable body.

## Specific Rationale for Uniforms

1. Uniforms are an opportunity for students to express themselves as disciplined members of an academic community. Dressing up, and perhaps even a uniform, is an expected part of life for many professional adults; students have their own profession as they pursue an education on our campus, and a uniform is a fitting constant reminder of that calling.
2. Conscious self-presentation that is attractive, simple, and practical allows students to approach time spent at school as their "professional" pursuit. It elevates their mindset and reminds them of higher expectations by elevating their appearance.
3. Physical similarities created through uniformed dress demonstrate the intellectual and spiritual connection our students share as part of the TSCS community. Athletic teams and military organizations wear uniforms in part as a sign of unity in purpose and identity; our students do the same.
4. Uniforms signal to others that you are a member of a community. This allows us to easily distinguish students of TSCS during the school day and during off-campus events, and it allows our students to serve as ambassadors for our school outside of school hours.
5. Uniforms eliminate confusion over what is appropriate and acceptable. A more detailed Uniform and Dress Code prevents problems associated with a subjective interpretation of policy.

## Enforcement

1. Parents must be the chief enforcers of the Uniform and Dress Code, since students make choices about their appearance in your homes each morning. TSCS staff will enforce the Uniform and Dress Code Policy on our campus. Interpretation and application of the Uniform and Dress Code standards will be the responsibility of the Deans, Associate Head of School, and Head of School.
2. Students not complying with the Uniform and Dress Code policy will be fined \$10 and may be required to rectify their appearance immediately, at the discretion of an administrator. This may include removing a prohibited item, purchasing an item from the TSCS office which is charged to a student's account, waiting in the school office while a parent brings appropriate items to campus, or older students driving home to change.

3. Students who repeat uniform violations will be charged a \$50 fine to their student account per infraction. This is in addition to being sent home to change, or being given items to wear that require purchase from our campus store.
4. Students who repeatedly ignore the Dress Code may be banned from wearing specific items to campus. This is reserved for consistently repeated violations.
5. It is our wish that we spend as little time as possible thinking about what our students are wearing so that we may all focus on our task at hand: education. This will only be possible if our families and students approach these guidelines with a spirit of cheerful discipline.

## The Dress Code

1. Students must abide by Uniform Guidelines below at all times.
2. Exception Days: Teachers and administration will communicate any free dress/exception days directly to parents via email at least one week in advance. This includes Spirit Week, athletes wearing gear on game days, Halloween, Go Texan Day, etc. Students must either dress according to the directions given, or wear their standard school uniform. Students who come to school wearing clothing that doesn't abide by the exception day or by the normal Uniform Guidelines (i.e. leisure wear on Go Texan Day) will be sent home to change.
3. Many pieces of the standard uniform must be purchased from the TSCS Lands' End online store. The exceptions are:
  - a. Lower School students may purchase white or navy polo or Oxford shirts from other vendors so long as they have no other logo on them (Nike swoosh, etc). There are also options available for purchase in the Lands' End store. This does not apply to Middle or Upper School students, who must purchase all shirts from the Lands' End Uniform Store.
  - b. Pants and shorts may be purchased from other vendors so long as they are chino/twill fabric, meet requirements for length and fit, and either khaki or navy blue in color. Please see description under "Uniform Guidelines: Pants and Shorts."
  - c. Gray hooded and crew neck sweatshirts may be purchased from the TSCS Spirit Store. No other sweatshirts from vendors that are not Land's End or the Spirit Store may be worn.
  - d. Small items (socks, tights, etc).
4. The TSCS Spirit Store contains some items that are permitted as part of the standard school uniform, but many items (T-shirts, sweatpants, etc.) are only permitted on exception days or outside the school day. Please read the Uniform guidelines and the product descriptions on the Spirit Store website to make sure you understand which items are permitted in the standard uniform.

# Standard Uniform for ALL Grades

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## **Blouses, Oxfords, and Polo Shirts**

**In Lower School**, white and navy collared shirts may be purchased from any vendor so long as they are a collared polo or Oxford and have no other logo (no Nike swoosh, etc.). Shirts in all other approved colors must be purchased from the Lands' End store and must bear the TSCS embroidered logo. Long sleeve undershirts are not permitted unless worn under a long sleeve shirt.

**In Middle and Upper School**, all shirts must be purchased from the Lands' End store and bear the TSCS logo. Long sleeve undershirts are not permitted unless worn under a long sleeve shirt.

Colors: white, navy, Oxford (light) blue, French (medium) blue. Undershirts may only be worn in white.

## **Jumpers, Skirts, and Skorts**

Only items purchased from the TSCS Lands' End store, in Classic Navy Large Plaid, are permitted. A plain navy jumper from the Lands' End store is also allowed, but it must have a TSCS embroidered logo. All jumper, skirt, and skort lengths must be no more than two inches above the knee.

Colors: Navy and red with white; navy blue

## **Cardigans, Sweaters, Sweatshirts, Sweater Vests, and Blazers**

Only items purchased from the TSCS Lands' End store, or the gray logo hooded or crewneck sweatshirt from the TSCS Spirit Store, are permitted.\* A collared uniform shirt must be worn underneath outerwear at all times. Blankets are not considered outerwear and will be confiscated if brought to school as outerwear.

Colors: gray, navy, burgundy

\*Crewneck red, and zippered black options are available in the TSCS Spirit Store, but are not included in the standard school uniform. These items may be worn on Free Dress Days.

## **Tights, Leggings, and Bike Shorts**

Girls of all ages must wear bike shorts, opaque tights, or ankle-length leggings under jumpers and dresses where there are no built-in shorts.\* Bike shorts must be covered by the length of the skirt and may be any color. Leggings and tights must be opaque (not see through) and be a single color mentioned below (slight pattern is fine so long as the pattern is not multi-colored). Sweatpants/pajama pants are not a permitted option in this category.

Colors: white, black, navy, gray

\*Please note: Students not in compliance with the Uniform Guidelines will be required to purchase items to be put on and worn. Items will be charged to student accounts.

## **Pants and Shorts**

Shorts may only be worn by Lower, Middle, and Upper School boys and Lower School girls. Female students of all ages have multiple skirt/jumper options available to them.

Pants and shorts must be made from chino cloth/twill fabric: no denim, stretch denim, cotton, spandex, or corduroy. Pants and shorts must be free of holes, and be properly fitted to allow for natural movement of the body (not excessively baggy or excessively tight). Shorts must be worn no more than two inches above the knee. No cargo pants/shorts are permitted.

Colors: khaki, navy, gray

## **Socks**

Socks may be a solid color or patterned, and may be any length. They may have a small manufacturer's logo, but no words.\* White, black, navy, and gray tights are also permitted for girls.

Colors: Socks, any color. Tights, white, black, navy, gray

\*Please note: Students not in compliance with the Uniform Guidelines will be required to purchase items to be put on and worn. Items will be charged to student accounts.

## **Shoes**

Shoes must be in good condition and close-toed. If the shoes have laces, they must be kept tied while worn. Lower School students must wear socks with their shoes at all times.

Upper School girls may wear 2" or lower closed or open toed heels in navy, black, brown, or nude. Socks or tights are not required for heels.

## **Belts**

Belts are recommended but not required, particularly when shirts are worn tucked in (as on Formal Uniform days).

Colors: Solid brown, black, navy

## **Outer Coats, Rain Jackets, and Rain Boots**

These items should not have any lettering or bear any slogans. Any colors are permitted; please make sure your student's items are clearly labeled with their name. None of these items may be worn indoors at any time.

## Backpacks and Lunch Boxes

Students grades PK3-5<sup>th</sup> may NOT use rolling backpacks. Middle and Upper School students may, but they must keep their backpack with them at all times. Remember that oversize backpacks will not fit inside a locker. Any style of lunch box is allowed.

## Hats

Only TSCS branded hats are permitted. Hats may only be worn while outside.

## Scarves, Gloves, Etc.

Additional accessory items may only be worn while outside. They may not have any lettering/words on them.

## Hair, Jewelry, and Hair Accessories

We allow parents to decide for their children how these elements of physical presentation are managed. While self-expression in these areas is allowed, we still expect students to be able to meaningfully participate in all typical school activities, and their appearance must not inhibit that. This means we discourage excessive jewelry, large hair accessories, and impractical hairstyles because of the difficulties they pose for rigorous outdoor movement and play.

**TSCS reserves the right to determine whether or not a student's uniform is in compliance with TSCS policy and act accordingly.**

# Formal Uniform

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On special occasions, students are required to wear a more formal uniform. These days include the First Day of School, Picture Day, Grandparents Day, Divine Liturgy Days, Field Trips, and Commencement, as well as other days throughout the year that may be announced.

## Formal Uniform: Girls

- Skirt or jumper in Classic Navy Large Plaid
- White or light blue collared shirt with TSCS embroidered logo (short or long sleeved), tucked in
- Dress shoes or ballet-style flats (with or without straps) in solid black, gray, navy, brown, or nude
- White, gray, navy, or black socks or tights
- House Tie and/or House Pin
- Optional: any style uniform sweater or blazer available for purchase from Lands' End store with TSCS embroidered logo (hooded or crewneck sweatshirts not permitted)

- No sweatshirts, hats, spirit wear, athletic wear, etc. allowed on Formal Days

### **Formal Uniform: Boys**

- Navy or khaki chino pants
- White or light blue collared shirt with TSCS embroidered logo (short or long sleeved), tucked in
- Belt in solid black or brown (preferably coordinating with shoe choice)
- Dress shoes, loafers, oxfords, or boat shoes in solid black, gray, navy, or brown. No canvas shoes or athletic shoes allowed.
- White, gray, navy, or black socks
- House Tie and/or House Pin
- Optional: any style uniform sweater or blazer available for purchase from Lands' End store with TSCS embroidered logo (hooded or crewneck sweatshirts not permitted)
- No sweatshirts, hats, spirit wear, athletic wear, etc. allowed on Formal Days

## **PE Uniform**

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PE uniforms are mandatory for Middle and Upper School students enrolled in PE.

PE uniforms are optional for Lower School students enrolled in Motor Movements.

PE uniforms provide a very specific function on our campus, and may not be worn at any other time, including during other recess breaks or classes. Students who have PE first period may arrive at school in their PE uniform, but must bring an acceptable change of clothes and complete the rest of the day in the school uniform. Students who have PE last period may leave their PE uniform on while waiting to be picked up after school, but must change back into their school uniform if remaining on campus for extracurricular activities unrelated to athletics (theater, etc).

PE uniforms are available for purchase through the Lands' End store, but may be purchased through other vendors so long as they are free of designs/logos from other organizations (Nike swoosh, etc).

### **PE Uniform**

- **Shirt:** Only gray T-shirts, properly fitted, are permitted. If not purchased through the Lands' End store, they must be completely blank.
- **Shorts:** Only burgundy, and must fall no more than two inches above or below knee.
- **Outerwear:** Any TSCS branded sweatshirt is allowed, and only burgundy sweatpants. Reminder: while more latitude is available in PE outerwear, some of these items must be removed to complete the school day in the standard uniform. Suitable alternatives should be brought to school for use when not in PE on colder days.

- Shoes: must be suitable for physical activity (running, jumping, etc). Laces must be tied at all times.

## Free/Themed Dress Guidelines

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Throughout the school year students are given the opportunity to dress outside the standard uniform. On free/themed dress days, students must either follow the communicated theme for the day or wear their standard uniform. Students who dress otherwise may be fined and/or sent home to change (i.e. wearing workout clothes on Go Texan Day).

Free Dress/themed dress clothes must follow the same fit guidelines as our standard uniform. This means clothes should neither be excessively baggy or excessively tight. Dresses, skirts and shorts must be worn no higher than two inches above the knee. Tank tops are permitted, but should not show cleavage/the chest area. Shirts should completely cover the torso, including during the normal range of human movement (bending, reaching, etc). Clothing should be free of brands/company advertising other than very small logo marks (Nike, other schools, etc).

Close-toed shoes (and socks for Lower School students) are still required for safety reasons.

## Formal Event Guidelines

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Middle and Upper School students are given several opportunities throughout the year to attend formal events, and the expectation is that students will dress in a manner appropriate to a formal occasion.

**Young Men:** Young men should wear a clean and tidy long sleeved button-down collared shirt with tie and a jacket and slacks. Suits and tuxedos are also welcome! If a young man chooses not to wear a tie, he must wear a jacket, and vice versa. Athletic shoes and sneakers are not permitted.

**Young Women:** Long dresses are especially encouraged to meet the formality of the occasion. If choosing a shorter dress, the shortest part of the dress cannot be shorter than knee length. Dresses must have their own shape and structure independent of the young woman's own body, which means skirts should not be form fitting, but flow from the waist. Strapless and spaghetti strapped dresses are permitted, but no cleavage should be visible. If choosing to wear a formal suit or jumpsuit instead of a dress, the same principles apply. Athletic shoes and sneakers are not permitted.