

DRESS STANDARDS

The Shady Side Academy dress code upholds standards of dress that reflect the fundamental purpose and ethos of the Academy. The dress code establishes an environment conducive to the enterprise of learning while allowing for individual self-expression bound by the Shady Side's Guiding Principles of honesty, kindness, responsibility, respect and safety.

The Academy has four different dress codes (Daily, Formal, Bulldog Dress-Down and Dress-Down), each reflecting the nature of the particular endeavor. *In general, students' clothing and general appearance should allow for full and comfortable participation in all school activities and a full range of motion - including bending, sitting, and walking up stairs - without the need for frequent readjustment.*

Daily Dress

- Dress or casual pants, shorts/skorts/skirts, jumpsuits, rompers and dresses.
- Dresses: Sleeveless dresses are allowed, but dresses with spaghetti straps must be worn under a cardigan, blazer or other appropriate/sanctioned outerwear.
- Leggings are allowed only if worn under a skirt or dress. They must be a solid color (no mesh, sheer, colors, patterns or text).
- Shirts: polos, collared shirts (which must be properly buttoned in front) and tailored shirts that do not resemble T-shirts. Note:
 - Henley shirts are allowed.
 - Turtlenecks are allowed.
 - Lapels on a jacket do not constitute collars.
 - "Cold-shoulder" or open-shoulder tops are allowed. Shirts with spaghetti straps are allowed, but only when worn under a cardigan, blazer or other appropriate/sanctioned outerwear.
- Outerwear: Crew-neck, quarter-zip sweaters and hooded tops are allowed.
- Sweatshirts are allowed, as long as there is no branding, logos or graphics larger than four square inches.
 - SSA-branded items must meet this same four-square-inch standard.
 - Seniors may wear collared college-branded shirts and/or college-branded sweatshirts only in Term III. Seniors must meet daily stress standards otherwise.
- Shoes: closed-toe, fully laced and in good repair. Sneakers are allowed. For safety reasons, open-toed shoes (including Crocs and other partially-closed shoes) are not allowed.
- Hats must be removed upon entry to any school building, unless a student has permission from the Dean of Student Life.

Formal Dress

Certain days throughout the year are designated as Formal Dress Days (Convocation, Prize Day, Board of Visitors Day, Cum Laude Society Induction, Commencement, etc.). In an effort to honor our fellow students or an outside performance or speaker, dress clothes should be worn throughout the entire day, from 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m.

- Navy blue blazer
- White collared dress shirt with tie or blouse with sleeves
- Khaki dress pants or khaki dress skirt
- White dresses may be worn in lieu of khaki dress pants and skirts
- Shoes in good repair (dress shoes, sneakers, athletic shoes)

If the purchase of a blue blazer, khaki pants, a tie or spirit wear presents a financial difficulty, please reach out to the Dean of Student Life Office for assistance.

Bulldog Dress-Down Days

Bulldog Dress-Down Days occur every other week throughout the school year (normally on Fridays). On these days, students are permitted to wear clothing that reflects school spirit and pride during the school day.

- SSA apparel (shirts, shorts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, etc.) is appropriate and encouraged.
- Leggings and jeans may be worn on SSA Spirit Days.
- If not wearing SSA apparel, students must meet daily dress standards.

SSA athletic teams and groups (i.e., theater productions) may request to wear their uniforms (if appropriate) or some form of team wear on the day of a significant contest or in anticipation of an opening event. If the team apparel does not meet Daily Dress standards, the coach or captain must make a request to the Dean of Student Life by noon of the preceding day. Approved requests will be communicated to the team by the coach or captain. Student-athletes who dress down without permission will face dress code violation consequences and will risk having this privilege removed for their entire team. This is an occasional (once or twice per season) and not a regular privilege.

Dress-Down Days

If a Dress-Down Day is declared by the president, head of school or dean of student life, jeans and T-shirts in good repair are appropriate. Proper footwear is expected (no flip-flops) and the general guidelines of neat, clean, appropriately fitted and sized clothing are in effect. Students who choose not to follow the Dress-Down Day guidelines must follow the daily dress code or be subject to typical dress code violation consequences.

Prohibited

The following are NOT allowed:

- Flip flops, slippers, athletic slides, open-toed shoes, Crocs, or other partially-closed shoes, shoes in poor repair.
- Exposed undergarments or midriffs.
- Frayed, torn, patched, ripped, sheer, distressed clothes.
- Clothing with profanity or references to drugs or alcohol.
- Visible tattoos, tongue piercings, body piercing (other than modest piercings).
- Camouflage clothing.
- T-shirts worn over collared shirts or unbuttoned collared shirts.
- Blue denim pants, skirts, shorts (denim jackets of any color are permitted).
- Leggings are prohibited as standalone pants. They may be worn only under a skirt or dress except on SSA Spirit Days or Dress-Down Days when athletic wear is permitted.
- Spaghetti straps, strapless, off-the-shoulder tops and dresses (unless worn under a cardigan, blazer, or other appropriate/sanctioned outerwear).
- Athletic clothing, sweatpants, soccer pants or joggers (unless permitted for a SSA Spirit Day, team event or Dress-Down Day).
- Shirts or outerwear of any kind with graphics, brand names, or logos larger than four square inches (unless permitted for a SSA Spirit Day or Dress-Down Day).