

## The Dress Code

USM Middle School adheres to a dress code that meets the needs of all students. All students are expected to dress appropriately for a scholarly environment where we focus on growing as learners, leaders, and citizens. Students must follow the letter and spirit of the dress code policy. Students will receive a warning after a dress code violation. Continued violations will result in a Common Trust Reflection. Further violations may require a parent conference and additional disciplinary consequences.

## Philosophy and Rationale

The dress code is an important part of the middle school culture, as it teaches students that different places and situations require different modes of dress. At school, students are expected to dress for academic readiness and their teachers follow suit by wearing professional attire. We expect and encourage students to dress differently for sporting events, field trips, and formal events, like the 8th Grade Closing Ceremony. Ultimately, we want to develop self- and situationally-aware students, who have a nuanced understanding of the role that personal attire plays in showing a respect for and understanding of different environments.

### **Summer Uniform (First day of school until October 1; May 1 until end of school year)**

Students are not required to wear their third pieces or ties until mid-October, with the exception of picture day. However, if they choose to wear a sweater or fleece or blazer during summer uniform, the third piece must be the required navy one from the list that follows.

During summer uniform, any solid color polo-type knit shirts with sleeves and a collar may be worn. Minimal logos on polo-type shirts are acceptable, but large logos are not. Students may wear tennis shoes or other canvas or leather shoes as part of their summer uniform. These need to be in good repair and contain no inappropriate markings.

Navy or khaki dress or cargo shorts, no shorter than 4" above the knee, may be worn for summer uniform. Black watch plaid skirts and skorts may also be worn for summer uniform and cannot be shorter than 4" above the knee. If a student chooses to wear a black watch plaid skirt, it must be worn with solid colored opaque leggings (ankle length) or solid colored opaque tights. Summer uniform is in place from the first day of school until mid-October. The exact date to begin the regular dress code will be determined based on the date of Homecoming and weather predictions. Summer uniform begins again on May 1 and continues through the end of the school year.

**Winter Uniform (from mid-October until May 1)**

<b>Tops:</b>	<b>Bottoms:</b>	<b>Shoes:</b>	<b>Other:</b>
<p>For girls: Any solid colored, collared shirt, long or short sleeves; or turtlenecks or mock turtlenecks of any solid color, long or short sleeves (minimal logo acceptable)</p> <p>For boys: A solid colored button-down dress shirt with any color or pattern neck tie or bow tie (required)</p> <p><b>Third Pieces (one from the list below is required for winter uniform):</b></p> <p>1) Navy blue blazer, no USM logo required</p> <p>2) Navy blue cardigan, sweater, sweater vest with required USM logo (available from the School Store or Land's End)</p> <p>3) Navy half-zip fleece, or navy full-zip fleece with</p>	<p>Khaki, navy, olive, or grey pants</p> <p>Khaki or navy dress or cargo shorts, no shorter than 4" above the knee (summer uniform only)</p> <p>Black watch plaid skirt, no shorter than 4" above the knee (available from Land's End)</p> <p>Students are required to wear solid colored opaque leggings (ankle length) or solid colored opaque tights under skirts <b>and</b> skorts</p>	<p>Close-toed, rubber-soled, flat shoes; ankle-height boots; tennis or athletic shoes</p>	<p>Any belt in good repair (required if pants or shorts have belt loops)</p> <p>Any socks in good repair (optional)</p> <p>Head and hair coverings required for ethnic or religious reasons (optional)</p> <p>Students are not permitted to wear hats, jackets, or outerwear in the building</p>

required USM logo (available from the School Store, Land's End, or Boosters)			
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Students, a helpful guideline for the length of shorts, skirts, or skorts of any kind, both in uniform and on designated Out of Uniform days, is to stand up straight with your hands at your sides. If your shorts, skirts, or skorts are shorter than your fingertips, then you may not wear them to school. While you may choose to wear shorter bottoms in your life outside of school, you may not wear them in school, even on designated Out of Uniform days.

During winter months, students may wear snow boots to school but must change into school shoes and leave their boots in their locked lockers.

Out of respect and safety for all members of our community, the following are **not allowed** at USM:

- Shorts, skirts, or skorts higher than 4" above the knee, including shorts on designated Out of Uniform days.
- Sandals, open-toed shoes, heels, slippers, or boots that reach above the ankle. Boots are acceptable on Out of Uniform days, but slippers are not.
- Clothing with inappropriate or offensive language, pictures, symbols, or designs.
- Clothing featuring large logos or name brands.
- Clothing that fits too tightly, exposes undergarments, or reveals excessive bare skin.

Students whose clothing is deemed inappropriate or in poor taste will be asked to change. Again, our USM community expects everyone to dress for a scholarly environment where we focus on growing as learners, leaders, and citizens.

**Examples of Middle School Dress Code:**







### **Wildcat Wednesdays**

On the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted, students may choose to be out of uniform if they are dressed in USM spirit wear. Wildcat Wednesdays are an enjoyable opportunity for students to show pride in their school community. Therefore, students are expected to wear clothing featuring the USM name or logo, including but not limited to USM-branded clothing purchased from the School Store or provided to students through extra-curricular activities, USM athletic apparel, and other garments that feature the USM name or logo. Students who are not dressed in spirit wear with the USM name or logo will be asked to change. Further guidelines for what is and is not acceptable on Out of Uniform Days like Wildcat Wednesday are listed above under “Middle School Dress Code” as well as in the following section.

**Out of Uniform Dress for Middle School**

Students may wear athletic pants, t-shirts, or other clothing that is clean and appropriate. Inappropriate clothing includes: shorts, pants, or skirts that are too tight or too short (more than 4" above the knee); clothing that fits too tightly, exposes undergarments, or reveals excessive bare skin; ripped or torn tops or bottoms; hats; clothing with offensive language, pictures, or symbols. Please be aware that students will be asked to change if their clothing is considered to be inappropriate or in poor taste.