

# Dress Code Policy 2023 - 2024

**Philosophy** The purpose of the dress code is to ensure that students come to school first and foremost dressed ready to learn. To do so, we seek to promote:

1. A sense of uniformity and being part of a community
2. The ability of all students to be comfortable throughout the day
3. The practice of situational awareness in choosing appropriate attire. By honing this skill, students gain the ability to navigate various social, professional, and formal settings, setting them up for success
4. Equitable treatment for all students, regardless of gender, race, religion, or economic standing
5. Clarity for all about how the dress code applies to specific items of dress, avoiding confusion in rule following and enforcement

**Enforcement** The clothing we wear is related to how we present ourselves in our community, and judgments about clothing can feel like judgments about who we are in ways that can be personal and intimate. Therefore, we are committed to having healthy, thoughtful conversations with students about how our dress code applies to their individual clothing choices.

Students who come to school in clothing that does not meet our dress code expectations will be required to change into clothing that does. They will have the opportunity to get replacement clothing from our front desk for a fee. The fee can be paid immediately or can be charged to the student's account. These charges will be managed by the business office.

**Dress Code Policy** The following rules outline our policy for dress:

**Tops** Students must wear logoed Lands' End shirts (polos, t-shirts, or button-downs) or any PRS tops from Believeinsigns.com. Students may also wear t-shirts approved by the Marketing/Communications department that represent a PRS team, service learning group, affinity group, or club. All tops must cover the midriff and shoulders throughout the school day.

**Sweatshirts and Hoodies** Sweatshirts and hoodies must have an approved PRS logo from Lands' End or Believeinsigns.com, and they must cover the midriff and shoulders throughout the school day.

**Outerwear** Outerwear such as sweaters, vests, and fleece must have a PRS logo from Lands' End or Believeinsigns.com. Students may also wear

lettermen's jackets. On rainy days, students may wear a warm coat or rain jacket from any brand.

**Bottoms** Students may wear any brand, material, or style pants, shorts, skorts, or skirts. However, all lower-body wear must be a solid fabric and color (e.g. no patterned or fishnet stockings) and cannot have any holes, frays, words, or other ornamentation. No sleepwear or swimwear is allowed. All pants, shorts, skorts, or skirts must be of a cut and length so that they fully cover a student's buttocks throughout the school day and so that no undergarments are visible.

**Heads** No headwear is allowed inside buildings (this includes hats, sweatshirt hoods, etc.) without specific permission related to religious, medical, or other purposes.

**Masks** The School follows CDC and public health department guidance on wearing masks. Should the wearing of masks be mandatory on campus, the nose and mouth must be covered.

Masks should be surgical, KF94, KN95, or N95 masks.

**Feet** Students must wear shoes at all times, everywhere on campus. Certain spaces and activities on campus require specific footwear (closed-toed shoes for safety in science classes or the fabrication studio, athletic shoes for sports, etc.); students participating in activities in those spaces must wear appropriate footwear.

**Religious Clothing** Students may wear clothing that is part of their religious practice (e.g. head coverings).

**Spirit or Themed Dress Days** Spirit or Themed Dress Days are announced in advance. Students may wear tops, sweatshirts/hoodies, bottoms, outerwear, hats, socks, belts, or scarves that maintain a professional learning environment (all pants, shorts, skorts, or skirts must be of a cut and length so that they fully cover a student's buttocks throughout the school day and so that no undergarments are visible, tops must cover the midriff and shoulders, contain no verbal or visual messaging that is illegal (e.g. alcohol or other substances), or contain any verbal or visual language that is disparaging against or appropriates identity (race, ethnicity, religion, age, national origin, sex, ability, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomics, or language). See the Non-PRS Clothing and Accessories section above for more specifics.

**Non-PRS Clothing and Accessories** Because Pacific Ridge School promotes a culture of inclusion and diversity, students may not wear clothing or use accessories (tops, sweatshirts/hoodies, bottoms, outerwear, hats, socks, belts, scarves, stickers) that contain racist, bigoted, anti-semitic, violent, or substance abuse messaging, either overt or implied.

To ensure consistent and fair application of this policy, any clothing or accessory that is potentially in violation will be assessed using a standardized process to evaluate whether the clothing or accessory item violates the policy, considering factors such as:

- The direct meaning or commonly understood symbolism of the message or image.
- The potential for the message or image to cause harm or disruption within the school community.

The school also recognizes the potential of clothing or accessories displaying certain political messages negatively impacting community members. While the school respects the rights of students to express their beliefs, clothing or accessories that promote divisiveness, intolerance, or hate speech are not permitted.

In cases where the Division Head determines a violation the wearer will be asked to remove the item. The school is committed to handling such situations with understanding and respect, focusing on education and mutual understanding as much as possible.