



IDEAL Uniform and Dress Code Requirements

A school uniform and dress code are crucial in promoting community, equity, and focus among students. Uniforms and dress codes serve as tools to minimize distractions and create a sense of community within the student body. A well-implemented uniform or dress code can reduce peer pressure, bullying, and social disparities. All IDEAL students in Lower and Middle School are required to wear a uniform. Students in High School and Next Steps are required to follow a dress code. The school's dress code is equally applicable to students of all genders and gender expressions. The following specifics are intended as a guide for students and families, but it is not all-inclusive.

Uniform Requirements for IDEAL's Lower and Middle Schools

Students in Grades K-8 are required to wear a uniform. IDEAL's uniform requires:

- A polo or collared shirt embroidered with the school's logo, long enough to be tucked in
 - All shirts must be one of the school-selected colors (red, white, navy, black, gray)
- Khaki, black, or navy pants, shorts, skirts, polo dresses, or jumpers embroidered with the school's logo (leggings or sweatpants in lieu of pants are not allowed)
- Rubber-soled **athletic shoes** appropriate for stairs, PE, recess, class trips, and active learning (*See note below regarding boots)

Optional uniform pieces:**

- Solid-colored navy, black, or gray tights or leggings may be worn under a skirt or jumper
- Head coverings worn for religious or medical reasons or formal head wraps such as scarves
- Optional layers may be worn over a uniform
 - **Only** solid-colored or IDEAL logo sweaters, sweatshirts without a hood, or IDEAL-logo fleece (or solid-colored fleece) in red, white, black, or gray may be worn (no hoodies allowed)
 - No writing or decals other than the school logo can appear on these pieces

***Please note that students are not allowed to wear outerwear in class or in the school building, so warm layers in the cooler months are recommended.*

Students in Grades K-12 and Next Steps may NOT wear the following:

- Headphones and earbuds, including headphones that are worn around the neck, except for noise-canceling headphones used as an accommodation and permitted by a teacher or therapist
- Leggings or sweatpants in lieu of pants



- Shoes that are not athletic shoes, including but not limited to clogs, Crocs, sandals with open toes, shoes with heels, and shoes with wheels (*See note below regarding boots)
- Outerwear such as jackets or hooded sweatshirts (Students must leave jackets and hooded sweatshirts, as well as other outerwear, in cubbies or lockers at the start of each day)
- Informal head coverings such as bonnets, hats, and hoods
- Any clothing that reveals undergarments and midriffs, including but not limited to:
 - Low-cut shirts
 - Off-the-shoulder shirts or tank tops

Important Uniform Notes:

- *If students wear boots in inclement weather, they should bring appropriate rubber-soled athletic shoes to change into once at school
- Students in kindergarten through third grade are required to have a complete change of clothes at school (including shoes and underwear)
 - Please ensure that spare clothing is appropriate in size and for the particular season
 - All clothing must be marked with the student's name

Consequences for Being Out of Uniform:

- If a student comes to school out of uniform, they will be provided with a uniform shirt to be worn over their clothing and returned
- If a Lower School student is out of uniform, the family will be notified. If the student is out of uniform subsequently, there will be a conversation between the administration and the family, and parents/guardians may be asked to bring uniform clothing to their student
- If a Middle School student is out of uniform, the following steps will be taken:
 - First time in the semester – a flag and an email home, as well as a requirement to change in school into available uniform gear
 - Second time in the semester – lunch detention, as well as a requirement to change in school into available uniform gear
 - Third time in the semester – after-school detention
 - Further violations of the uniform code will be evaluated by the Middle School Head, Middle School Counselor, and Head of School, and a conversation with the family and Head of School will be required

Dress Down Days

Each month, starting in October, the first Friday that school is in session will be a dress-down day. On these days, students are not required to come to school in uniform, **but they are still required to follow IDEAL's dress code, as outlined in the dress code section below.**



Dress Code Requirements for IDEAL's High School and Next Steps Transition Program

The dress code allows students to wear:

- Jeans without holes, joggers, leggings, skirts, pants, or dresses
- Sweaters, sweatshirts, t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, and polos
- Rubber-soled athletic shoes are required during the school day
- Head coverings worn for religious or medical reasons or formal head wraps such as scarves

On out-of-uniform days, students in Grades K-12 and Next Steps may NOT wear the following:

- Headphones and earbuds, including headphones that are worn around the neck, except for noise-canceling headphones used as an accommodation and permitted by a teacher or therapist
- Shoes that are not athletic shoes, including but not limited to clogs, Crocs, sandals with open toes, shoes with heels, winter boots, and shoes with wheels
- Outerwear such as jackets or hooded sweatshirts (Students must leave jackets and hooded sweatshirts, as well as other outerwear, in cubbies or lockers at the start of each day)
- Informal head coverings such as bonnets, hats, and hoods are not permitted at any time
- Any clothing that reveals undergarments and midriffs, including but not limited to:
 - Low-cut shirts
 - Off-the-shoulder shirts or tank tops

Consequences for Not Following the Dress Code:

- If a student comes to school in violation of the dress code, the student's family will be called or emailed with instructions to remedy the infraction the next day
- Every time a student comes to school in violation of the dress code, they will be provided with alternative apparel (IDEAL t-shirt, etc.)
- The second time a student comes into school in violation of the dress code, there will be additional consequences, which could include lunch detention
- The third time a student comes into school in violation of the dress code, the student will serve after-school detention, and a meeting with parents/guardians will be required
- The dress code still applies to High School students on dress-down days, becoming the default for students in other divisions



How to Purchase IDEAL Uniform Apparel

The IDEAL School Store at Lands' End

IDEAL clothing and uniforms, including dress-down day-appropriate spirit wear, can be purchased through the Lands' End website. Please note that spirit wear does not generally meet uniform requirements and is intended for weekends, recess or after-school outerwear, or dress-down days.

Spiritwear is listed separately from uniform options on the Lands' End website and can be found after Grade 12 in the grade status dropdown. To order school uniforms and spirit wear, go to:

landsend.com/900119843. If you are searching by name: **The IDEAL School of Manhattan**

Adaptive Uniform Options

Several clothing companies feature inclusive lines of adaptive clothing designed for easy dressing. The links below provide uniform options for students with fine motor challenges and/or sensory aversions. Colors should match those noted in the uniform requirements above.

- [Adaptive Short Sleeve Interlock Polo Shirt](#)
- [Adaptive Short Sleeve Mesh Polo Dress](#)
- [Adaptive Ponte Skirt](#)
- [Knit Skort Above the Knee](#)
- [Uniform Ponte Knit Pull-On Jeggings | Option Two](#)
- [Elastic Waist Pull-On Chino Pants | Option 2 | Pull On Chino Cargo Pants](#)

IDEAL Parents Association Used Uniform Sales

The Parents Association holds two gently-used uniform sales where families can donate and purchase uniform pieces.