



Prescribed Dress Code

Students on the San Jose Campus are asked to dress in a way that creates a positive and focused environment for learning and reflects the mission of the School. If a student arrives on campus and is not in dress code, we will require the student to go to the Deans' Office to wait until someone can come to campus with an appropriate replacement. Dress code will continue to be monitored throughout the day, again, with the student being sent to the Deans' Office to wait until they have an appropriate replacement. If the student misses a class or classes as a result, the absence will be counted as unexcused. Please refer to the Student-Parent Handbook for information on what an unexcused absence entails.

Demerits as consequences for dress code violations will be assigned at one (1) demerit per incident. Beginning in the year 2025-26, this policy has been updated to include that if a student reaches a total of five (5) dress code violations, further dress code violations will incur five (5) demerits per incident.

The School reserves the right to make final decisions regarding attire/clothing choices as it relates to the mission of the School.

DAILY DRESS CODE

BOTTOMS: Dress pants: with belt if have belt loops;

No drawstring or pajama-style pants, shorts, yoga pants, cargo pants, leggings, tennis/running skorts, athletic clothing and jeans are permitted.

Skirts must reach or extend beyond the fingertips when at a normal stance. Students can verify length appropriateness by standing in front of a mirror at a normal stance with their arms down. A good guideline to use is approximately mid-thigh length.

Skirts should be A-line, not tiered and not a tennis or running skirt/skort. Maxi skirts are allowed.

TOPS: Dress tops: short-sleeved or long-sleeved button-up Oxford-style shirts, short-sleeved or long-sleeved dress blouses. All shirts with a collar must be tucked in.

Not allowed: Hawaiian-style collars or print; oversized or long-tailed shirts

SHOES: Athletic shoes, dress shoes, boat shoes, sandals with a back strap, rain boots and dress boots.

Not allowed: backless shoes (to include "lips" at the heel), slippers, slides, flip-flops, Crocs or other plastic/rubber/Foamrunner-style footwear or Ugg-style slippers

OUTERWEAR: Sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets or coats that are plain, have a college or university logo, or have a Bolles logo.

Outerwear must be worn with a regulation dress shirt underneath.

HAIR: Hair should be neat, well-kept and out of the eyes at all times. *Not*

permitted: radical hair colors or styles; Also not permitted:

- *Hats, caps or visors worn inside during the School day, unless with permission for religious reasons*
- *Clothing with holes or frayed edges*
- *Facial piercings, tattoos that are lewd, offensive or are a representation of illegal activity must be covered or otherwise not visible.*
- *Facial hair, unless with permission for religious or medical reasons.*

SPECIAL DRESS CODES

For each of the special dress codes, as with the daily dress code, the following are not permitted:

Hats, caps or visors worn inside during the School day, unless with permission for religious reasons

- *Clothing with holes or frayed edges*
 - *Facial piercings, tattoos that are lewd, offensive or are a representation of illegal activity must be covered or otherwise not visible.*
 - *Facial hair, unless with permission for religious or medical reasons.*
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FRIDAY DRESS CODE

Students follow the daily dress code as above, or they can wear: Tops:

Bolles collared shirt

Bottoms: Dress pants: with belt if have belt loops; dress skirts must reach or extend beyond the fingertips when at a normal stance.

DESIGNATED SPIRIT DAY DRESS CODE

Students follow the daily dress code as above, or they can wear: Tops:

Bolles collared shirt or Bolles t-shirt

Bottoms: Bottoms: Students may wear jeans with no holes, rips, or frayed hems or follow the Daily Dress Code: Dress pants: with belt if have belt loops; dress skirts must reach or extend beyond the fingertips when at a normal stance.

FORMAL DRESS CODE

BOTTOMS: Dress pants: with belt if have belt loops; dress skirts must reach or extend beyond the fingertips when at a normal stance.

Not allowed: shorts, yoga pants, cargo pants, leggings, tennis/running skorts, athletic clothing and jeans

TOPS: Dress tops: short-sleeved or long-sleeved button-up Oxford-style shirts, short-sleeved or long-sleeved dress blouses. All shirts with a collar must be tucked in.

Not allowed: Hawaiian-style collars or print; oversized or long-tailed shirts

TIE: Tie required

DRESSES: Dresses that fit graduation requirements

SHOES: Athletic shoes, dress shoes, boat shoes, sandals with a back strap, rain boots and dress boots.

Not allowed: backless shoes, slippers, slides, flip-flops, Crocs or other plastic/rubber/Foamrunner-style footwear

OUTERWEAR: Sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets or coats that are plain or have a Bolles logo. Outerwear must be worn with a regulation dress shirt underneath.

Not allowed: outerwear with college, university or team logos or with large-letter brand-name

HAIR: Hair should be neat, well-kept and out of the eyes at all times. *Not permitted: radical hair colors or styles*

GRADUATION DRESS CODE

Beginning with the graduation of 1963, when The Bolles School dropped its military affiliation, the graduates wore white pants and blue blazers at graduation to distinguish themselves from the cadets who wore military uniforms in previous years. With the graduation of the first female students in the class of 1972, the School added white dresses as part of the ceremony. To honor these traditions, please adhere to the following requirements for your graduate:

For Females:

The dress should:

- be white, not off-white or cream,
- cover the knees when the wearer is seated,
- have sleeves or straps of a minimum $\frac{3}{4}$ " width,
- have no cutouts,
- have a modest neckline with the back no lower than the bottom of the shoulder blades.

The shoes should:

- be white,
- have a low-heel, as the graduate will be walking on various surfaces including grass.
- Flats or wedges are a safe choice.
- Flip-flops or sneakers are not in keeping with the formal nature of the event.

For Males:

The shirt should:

- be light blue,
- be button-down,
- be designed to wear with a tie.

The jacket should:

- be dark blue.

The pants should:

- be white, not off-white or cream,
- be designed to wear with a belt. The belt should be brown or black.

The shoes should:

- be brown or black,
- be leather dress shoes.

The tie should be a traditional or bow tie with a conservative pattern. Ties with characters, commercial products, advertising, team logos, etc. are not in keeping with the formal nature of the event.

For all Students:

As during the school day, facial piercings, tattoos that are lewd, offensive or are a representation of illegal activity must be covered or otherwise not visible. Hair should be neat, well-kept and out of the eyes at all times.

Any questions about the above should be addressed prior to Graduation Day with the Deans of Students, [Ms. Allison Denmark](#). Any accommodations to the guidelines should be directed to the Assistant Head of Upper School, [Ms. Piper Moyer-Shad](#).

Students who are not dressed in accordance with the dress code will be referred to the Deans' Office. Repeated disregard for the guidelines will result in increasing consequences.

A student's first dress code infraction carries no penalty, each additional dress code infraction is one demerit.

Official Warning: Warning recorded

1st and 2nd demerit: Activities duty

3rd demerit: Lunch duty

4th demerit: After-school detention

5th demerit: Saturday Workday

*Parent and advisor will receive communication after the third infraction.

Continued violation of dress code infractions after the 5th violation will escalate to 5 demerits per infraction and discipline probation. Repeated behavior may be referred to the Discipline Committee.