



Upper School Dress Code 2026-27

The culture of learning and growing at CDS encourages students to be creative and self-determined, and to advocate compellingly for their ideas. It has been in this spirit that students have worked with adults to develop the US dress code. As such, students are expected to honor the integrity and intent of the dress code.

The Role of Parents: In the area of dress code, parent cooperation and support of the established dress code is paramount. The school, students, and parents are all working in partnership in order to support the spirit of the dress code. The school expects that our parent body will embrace the dress code, support it, and help their child make appropriate decisions before leaving for school each day.

Adherence: Each student will be expected to come to school appropriately dressed. The dean of students, assistant principal, and/or US principal will make the final decisions regarding dress code issues. If the student is not dressed appropriately, they will be asked to change immediately. If the student does not have an alternate outfit, they will receive a dress code infraction, which may be subject to further disciplinary responses.

— Regular Dress Code —

“Regular dress code” will be worn on Monday-Thursday. On Fridays, students will have a “dress down” day where they can wear sweatpants or athletic pants/shorts. Occasionally, Student Government will designate, in advance, a dress-up day. There will also be dress-up days for special events. Please see the explanations below.

Important Note: *All clothing should be clean and in good repair, with no tears, rips, holes, or sheer in nature.*

Pants

- Options
 - Jeans/denim
 - Khaki, corduroy, linen, or wool pants, etc.
 - Leggings
- Requirements/Restrictions
 - No sweatpants or athletic pants (except on Fridays)
 - No pajamas
 - No rips, holes, or tears
 - All pants must be worn at or near the waist

Shorts/Skirts/Dresses

- Options
 - o Dress shorts
 - o Skorts
 - o Khaki/cargo/denim shorts
 - o Skirts and dresses
- Requirements/Restrictions
 - o No athletic shorts (except on Fridays)
 - o No rips, holes, or tears

Shirts/Blouses

- Options
 - o Collared shirt
 - o Blouse
 - o T-shirts/Long sleeve; any Carolina Day t-shirt (Homecoming, Rockmont, Sports team, for example), college shirt, or graphic tee shirt is acceptable
- Requirements/Restrictions
 - o No graphic tees that represent inappropriate material (controlled substances, offensive material, etc)
 - o No see-through items
 - o Tops should extend below the ribcage

Sweaters/Sweatshirts/Jackets

- Options
 - o Sweaters
 - o Sweatshirts
 - o Jackets/fleece
- Requirements/Restrictions
 - o A dress code shirt must be worn underneath sweaters, sweatshirts, and jackets/fleeces
 - o No graphics that represent inappropriate material (controlled substances, offensive material, etc)

Shoes/Accessories

- Shoe Options
 - o Sneakers/running shoes
 - o Sandals
 - o Boots
 - o Other closed-toed shoes
- Requirements/Restrictions
 - o No shower shoes/all rubber flip flops (except Fridays)
 - o No Slippers
- Accessories
 - o Hats and Hoods
- Requirements/Restrictions

- o No sunglasses should be worn inside campus buildings, except on spirit-related days as a part of a costume, or if required for medical reasons with an accompanying doctor's note (e.g. for concussions, migraines, etc)
- o Hats should not include graphics that represent inappropriate material (controlled substances, offensive material, etc)
- o Hoods and hats should allow for a student's eyes and mouth to be visible

— Dress-Up Days —

Upper school students will be expected to wear “dress day” attire on special occasions. Examples are Convocation, Honor Council Assembly, awards programs and graduation. There will be other days that require a heightened level of dress as well. The administration will inform the student body in advance when there will be a dress-up day.

Dress-Up Dress Code

- Options
 - o Skirts/dresses
 - o Dress pants/Khakis - please wear a belt if there are belt loops; no shorts on dress-up days
 - o Blouse
 - o Collared, button-up shirt
 - o Shirts should be tucked in
 - o Tie and sport coat optional
 - o Dress shoes/leather sandals/dressy sneaker
 - o No athletic shoes, flip flops, crocs, slippers