

Dress Code 2026 - 2027

Philosophy The purpose of the Dress Code Policy is to ensure that students come to school, first and foremost, dressed and ready to learn. To do so, the School's Dress Code Policy below seeks 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 any protected characteristic (including, but not limited to, gender identity, 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 can be personal and intimate. Therefore, the School is committed to having healthy, thoughtful conversations with students about how its Dress Code Policy applies to their individual clothing choices, including choices based on a student's religious practices. These conversations can be initiated by a staff member, teacher, or any member of the administration.

Students who come to School in clothing that does not meet the School's Dress Code Policy will be required to change into clothing that does. They will have the opportunity to get replacement clothing from the School's front desk for a fee. The fee can be paid immediately or can be charged to the student's account. These charges are managed by the School's business office. Students who are repeatedly out of dress code may face disciplinary action such as lunch detentions, parent meetings, confiscation of non-PRS outerwear or hats, and/or loss of privileges.

Dress Code Policy: The following rules outline the School's policy for dress.

Tops Students must wear logoed [Lands' End](#) shirts (polos, t-shirts, or button-downs) or any PRS tops from the [Pacific Ridge Store](#). 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. Tops may not be altered (cut necklines or sleeves, frayed edges, shortened length). If a shirt sits off the shoulder, a PRS-logo top must be worn underneath so that shoulders are covered.

Sweatshirts and Hoodies Sweatshirts and hoodies must have an approved PRS logo from Lands' End or [PRS, Pacific Ridge Store](#), and they must cover the midriff and shoulders throughout the school day. Sweatshirts may not be altered (cut necklines or sleeves, frayed edges, shortened length). If a sweatshirt sits off the shoulders, a PRS-logo top must cover the shoulders. College sweatshirts are not part of the dress code and may not be worn. A PRS shirt must be worn underneath a sweatshirt or hoodie.

Outerwear Outerwear such as sweaters, vests, and fleece jackets must have a PRS logo from [Lands' End](#) or the [Pacific Ridge Store](#). Students may also wear letterman's jackets. On rainy days, students may wear a warm coat or a rain jacket from any brand. On cold days when it is not raining, however, students should wear a PRS sweatshirt or outerwear. Students wearing non-PRS outerwear will be asked to remove the clothing item. Students may purchase PRS outerwear at the front office, which can be charged to the family's account.

Bottoms Students may wear any brand, material, or style of 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 but is not limited to hats, sweatshirt hoods, etc.). If a student seeks an exception to this policy based on religious, medical, or other grounds, the student or their parent is welcome to contact the Head of Middle School or Middle School Dean of Students to discuss this.

Masks/Protective Face Coverings The School follows CDC and public health department guidance regarding wearing masks or protective face coverings. The school reserves the right to require that students wear masks/protective face coverings based on its discretion and public health guidance or requirements. Should the wearing of masks/protective face coverings become mandatory on campus, the School will communicate and enforce expectations regarding permissible forms of masks/protective face coverings and how they must be worn.

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.

Non-PRS Clothing and Accessories Because Pacific Ridge School promotes an environment and culture of inclusion and diversity, students may not wear clothing or use accessories that contain racist, bigoted, violent, or substance abuse messaging, or messaging disparaging of any particular religion, either overt or implied.

To promote 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 including but not limited to:

- 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 or to infringe on the rights of others.

The school also recognizes the potential of clothing or accessories displaying certain political messages to negatively impact 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 or Head of School determines that a student has violated this policy, the student will be required to remove the item and may be subject to disciplinary action. The School is committed to handling such situations with understanding and respect, focusing on education and mutual understanding as much as possible.

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

Socials, 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 of an illegal nature (e.g., alcohol or other prohibited substances for minors), or contain any verbal or visual messaging that is disparaging against or appropriates an identity (e.g., race, ethnicity, religion, age, national origin, sex, ability, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomics, or language). See the section on Non-PRS Clothing and Accessories above for additional guidance.