UNIFORM/DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

** We expect cheerful, consistent commitment to the dress code policy from all students, parents, and staff. This is designed to promote our focus on academics and group solidarity. **

UNDERCLOTHING Always worn, never seen

SOCKS/TIGHTS	 Leggings may not be worn in place of slacks, but may be worn under skirts Bold/bright/patterned socks/tights are acceptable No unwholesome phrases/visuals
TOPS/SHIRTS	 Polos must be long enough to be tucked, but do not need to be tucked. Oxford and dress shirts must be tucked in Solid colors (red, white, navy blue, black) Polo, oxford shirts; cardigans, turtle/mock turtle necks, sweater vests, sweater hoodies (see Gap/Old Navy/Child's Place for uniform tops) Merit Academy hoodies Local club or team hoodies or polos for whom the Merit student participates are permitted on the day of/before (if on a weekend) an event
PANTS/SHORTS	 Must fit the student (not overly tight, not overly baggy) Longer than fingertip length Khakis and slacks Solid colors (red, navy blue, black, khaki/tan, gray) Jeans (darker color, black or solid color blue denims are acceptable) Not acceptable: Sweatpants/athletic wear (can be worn for PE) Leggings, unless worn under skirt, see socks/tights for guidelines No pants/shorts with holes, rips, frays, decorations
SKIRTS/SKORTS/ DRESSES	 Hem must be longer than fingertip length Solid colors (red, navy blue, black, khaki/tan, gray) Cartwheel/bike shorts, leggings, tights to be worn under shorter (fingertip length) skirts/dresses Dresses must be polo-type or sweater dresses, except on special occasion. No strapless, spaghetti strap dresses. Must adhere to above guidelines, colors, etc.
SHOES	 No shoes with wheels No flipflops Snowboots permitted, but must be worn only when outside (recess, lunch, etc.) Please bring indoor shoes to wear during winter months Heels must be 2" or less

PE: students may wear t-shirts, as long as those shirts fit properly and do not have offensive, unwholesome messaging. Shorts must be at least fingertip length. Shoes must be non-marking and appropriate for running.

Example approved uniform clothing (not all inclusive, but for ideas):

