



# MERIT ACADEMY DRESS CODE POLICY

Created and updated: 8/25/23

# PURPOSE OF UNIFORMS

There is a strong correlation between student appearance and perception of excellence. Additional reasons for the uniform dress code include:

- Foster a distinct and positive Merit Academy appearance
- Decrease distractions
- Increase commitment to MA's core values and beliefs.
- Discourage divisiveness or cliques and encourage core cohesion and respect
- Increase student parity



# THE IMPORTANCE OF ENFORCING A UNIFORM POLICY

- Teaching our students to adhere to the rules, set by their authority, prepares them for the workforce.
- While we encourage students to ask “why” they are being asked to follow certain rules; we do ask that they follow these rules and expectations while asking “why”. They will be expected to follow the rules even if they disagree with the “why”.
- Allowing students to break and bend rules fosters a sense of entitlement and disrespect of authority. Something we do not tolerate at Merit Academy.



# OVERALL UNIFORM GUIDELINES

These can be found at [www.merit.academy](http://www.merit.academy) under the families and then uniform tab

UNIFORM/DRESS CODE GUIDELINES	
<b>** 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. **</b>	
UNDERCLOTHING Always worn, never seen	
SOCKS/TIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Leggings may not be worn in place of slacks, but may be worn under skirts</li><li>Black, White, Navy preferred, but bold/bright/patterned socks/tights are acceptable</li><li>No unwholesome phrases/visuals</li></ul>
TOPS/SHIRTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Polos must be long enough to be tucked, but do not need to be tucked. Oxford and dress shirts must be tucked in</li><li>Solid colors (red, white, navy blue)</li><li>Polo, oxford shirts; cardigans, turtle/mock turtle necks, sweater vests, sweaters (see Gap/Old Navy/Child's Place for uniform tops)</li><li>Merit Academy hoodies</li><li>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</li></ul>
PANTS/SHORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Must fit the student (not overly tight, not overly baggy)</li><li>Longer than fingertip length</li><li>Khakis and slacks</li><li>Solid colors (red, navy blue, khaki/tan)</li><li>Jeans (darker color, black or solid color blue denims are acceptable)</li><li>Not acceptable:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sweatpants/athletic wear (can be worn for PE)</li><li>Leggings, unless worn under skirt, see socks/tights for guidelines</li><li>No pants/shorts with holes, rips, frays, decorations</li></ul></li></ul>
SKIRTS/SKORTS/ DRESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hem must be longer than fingertip length</li><li>Solid colors (red, navy blue, black, khaki/tan)</li><li>Cartwheel/bike shorts, leggings, tights to be worn under shorter (fingertip length) skirts/dresses</li><li>Dresses must be polo-type, uniform layered, or sweater dresses, except on special occasion. No strapless, spaghetti strap dresses. Must adhere to above guidelines, colors, etc.</li><li>Skirts/dresses may also be Red/Navy plaid only from French Toast</li></ul>
SHOES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No shoes with wheels</li><li>No flipflops</li><li>Snowboots permitted, but must be worn only when outside (recess, lunch, etc.) Please bring indoor shoes to wear during winter months</li><li>Heels must be 2" or less</li></ul>

## 24/25 additions:\*

- ONLY SOR can wear black tops
- Dressy, business, cargo pants are allowed.
- Friday's tops must be a uniform style.
- 11<sup>th</sup> and & 12<sup>th</sup> grades have the option to dress in business casual.

*\* Please read the following slides carefully for clarification on these additions*

# CARGO CLARIFICATION: CARGO MUST BE "DRESSY" OR BUSINESS LIKE.

## Do's:

- dressy
- Straight leg
- Khaki, black or navy



## Don't:

- NO Wide leg
- NOT Baggy
- NOT Skintight
- NO sweatpants



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



# EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE UNIFORMS

These are found on the Merit Academy website



New quarter zip approved this year.

ALL students can wear the navy and SOR can wear black.



# SOME EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE UNIFORMS



# OUTERWEAR

## Approved IN class

- Approved Merit Hoodie in Red, White or Blue for ALL students.
- Merit ¼ zip with merit logo
- Hoods are NOT to be worn in class.



## NOT Approved in class but can be worn to and from school

- Hoodies that are not uniform approved
- Heavy winter coats, scarves, gloves, etc
- Snow and rain boots
- Raincoats
- Snow bibs





- EVERY Friday is “house color day”- **THIS IS NOT A FREE DRESS DAY!**
- Your top must still be uniform style approved\* but can be the color of your house

## FRIDAY- HOUSE DAY COLOR

Approved Uniform Style tops\* in the following colors

- Elk- Green
- Wolf- Yellow
- Big Horn- Purple
- Bobcat- Orange
- Falcon- Blue

\*See the next slide for specifications



## FRIDAY- HOUSE DAY COLOR CONT.

- YOUR SHIRT MUST BE A UNIFORM APPROVED STYLE SHIRT; *POLOS WITH OR WITHOUT HOUSE LOGO, COLLARED BUTTON DOWN, FINE KNIT SWEATERS, SWEATER VEST OR CARDIGAN OVER COLLARED SHIRT.*
- IF YOU CHOOSE TO WEAR A HOODIE INSIDE THE BUILDING, IT MUST BE THE MERIT UNIFORM APPROVED HOODIE. HOUSE COLORED HOODIES ARE **NOT** APPROVED.
- ALL BOTTOMS MUST STILL BE UNIFORM. **NO RIPPED JEANS, LEGGINGS AS PANTS, SWEATPANTS, ALL SHORTS/ SKIRTS ARE FINGERTIP LENGTH.**
- JEANS, KHAKIS, KHAKI/JEAN/NAVY SHORTS, BUSINESS CARGO ARE ALL ACCEPTABLE
- YOU CAN ALSO CHOOSE TO WEAR A TYPICAL MERIT UNIFORM AS WELL

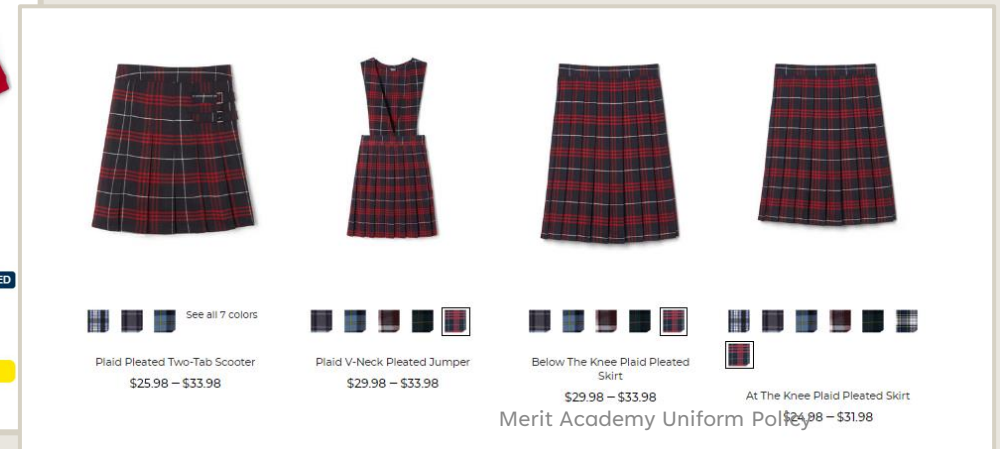
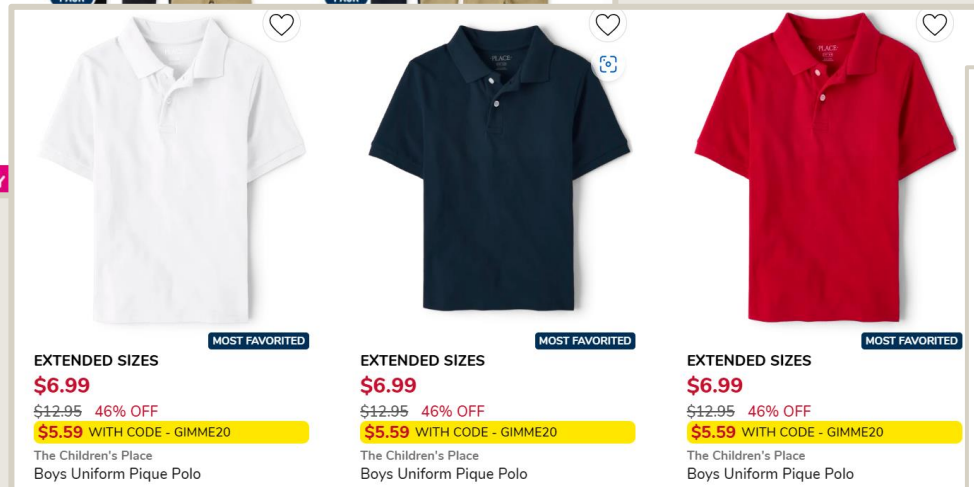
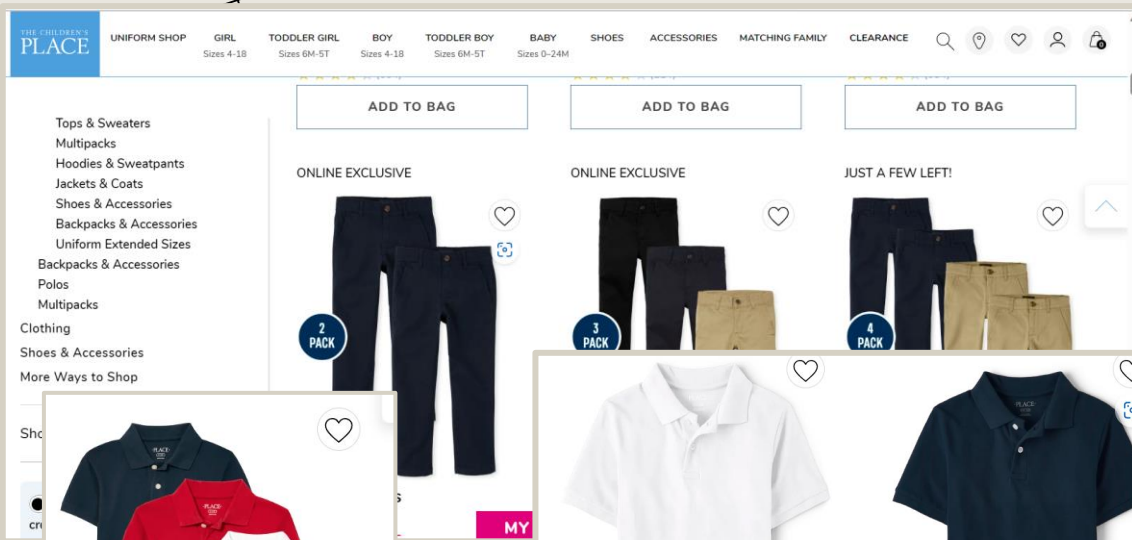


# WHERE TO BUY UNIFORMS & UNIFORM EXCHANGE

We know that buying uniforms can become costly, especially for those with multiple children in school. If you are having trouble purchasing uniforms, please reach out to our admin as we may have resources available to you.

## HERE ARE SOME GREAT PLACES TO ORDER UNIFORMS

- Amazon for quickest shipping
- Children's place/ Old Navy for lower cost
- French toast for the plaid girls' uniforms
- Goodwill for the LOWEST price!



# UPPERCLASSMEN (11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES)

## Business Casual Dress Guidelines

### Do's:

- dress pants
- Skirts below the knee
- Black jeans
- Collared dress shirt and tie
- Dress blouse
- Dress shoes
- Blazers/ jackets
- Fine-knit sweaters that go over button-down shirts

**What to Wear?**

**Say YES to:**

Blazer | Suit jacket | Dress pants | Collared dress shirt and tie | Dress blouse | Dress skirt | Dress shoes | Fine-knit sweater that goes over button-down shirts

**Just say NO to:**

Black | Athletic wear | Shorts | T-shirts | Hoodies | Sneakers | Flip-flops | Cropped tops | Ripped jeans | Cargo pants | Denim | Hats | Hoodies

*Still not sure? E-mail or call us and we'll help you out.  
260-481-6807 | stat@jphs.edu*

**WHAT TO WEAR?**

**STYLE: Business Casual**

**DO'S:**

- Dress pants
- Dress or skirt (at or below the knee)
- Black jeans (not ripped or faded)
- Collared dress shirt and appropriate neckwear (tie) or dress blouse
- Dress shoes or other sensible footwear
- Blazers and jackets
- Fine-knit sweaters that can go over button-downs/shirts

**DON'TS:**

- No athletic wear (sweatpants, sweatshirts, leggings)
- No shorts and crop tops
- No inappropriate pants, cargo style, or regular denim
- No beachwear, backless tops, 'streetwear', midriff-baring clothing
- No torn/ripped clothes
- No hats or hoods
- No exposed shoulders, skin-tight or revealing clothing

NOTE: Wearing a blazer or jacket, is recommended, but is optional. Wearing pants is recommended but if delegates choose to wear skirts/dresses, it must be 42 or BELOW the knee.

NOTE: It should be understood that all "appropriate business attire" is clean and pressed.

### Don't:

- NO Athletic wear (sweats or leggings)
- NO shorts
- NO loose cargo or light denim
- NO beachwear: midriff-bearing, backless, flip flops
- NO holes, rips or tears in pants or tops
- NO hats or hoodies
- NO exposed shoulders
- NO skin-tight or revealing clothing

# REVIEW IN PICTURES- SCHOOL OF GRAMMAR AND LOGIC

## MERIT ACADEMY DRESS CODE

### Student Starter Pack



### Merit Academy School of Grammar Dress Code

### FRIDAYS

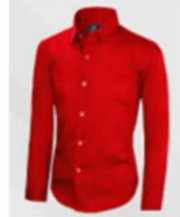
# REVIEW IN PICTURES- SCHOOL OF RHETORIC- 9<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup>



## Merit Academy School of Rhetoric Dress Code – 9th & 10th



### FRIDAYS



# REVIEW IN PICTURES- SCHOOL OF RHETORIC- 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup>



## Merit Academy School of Rhetoric Dress Code – 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>



# FAQ'S

*“We have a couple correct color polos but they have a little logo at the top of the shirt, is that ok?”*

- Yes! A small logo in the top corner of the shirt is acceptable. It should not be larger than a typical logo. Examples: the UA from UnderArmour shirts, the little GAP bear, the Ralph Lauren Polo horse are all ok!

*“What can my child wear for PE? Can they change?”*

- right now, our students do not have the space or the time to change for PE. Please send them to school with the appropriate UNIFORM clothing and footwear on days they have PE. Girls: shorts under skirts and dresses are required.

*“I found a lot of cool Merit designs on the 1stSpiritWear website you posted. Can my child wear those?”*

- YES, they can wear them outside of the building, to and from school. They should also wear them out in the community to support our school and show Merit Bear Pride! but NO, they can NOT wear them in class. Only the APPROVED uniform hoodie is allowed in class.
- **but NO, they can NOT wear them in class. Only the APPROVED hoodie above is allowed in class.**



## FAQ'S- PT2

*“My student said they can wear whatever they want on Friday as long as it’s the color of their house?”*

- **NO**- this is not the case. They need to be in UNIFORM tops and bottoms. However, the tops can be their house color in a uniform style.

*“I can’t find a top in my student’s house color so can they wear a color that is close?”*

- Not really. The only variance we have on colors is “light and dark”.  
Examples: Light/dark purple are ok for Big Horn house, but fuchsia/ pink is not. Light/ Dark blue is ok for Falcon house, but teal is not.

*“My daughter has long arms, do her skirts and shorts really have to be fingertip length?”*

- Yes. All the time, even on Fridays.

## FAQ'S- 3

### ***“Will there ever be ‘dress down’ or ‘out of uniform days’?”***

- While this doesn't happen often, it doesn't happen occasionally. Be on the lookout for teacher communication for these fun days!

### ***“The policy says, “dark jeans”. What exactly does this mean?”***

- The policy does say “darker jeans” but also goes on to say that solid blue and black denim is acceptable. If they are light blue *denim*, they are acceptable. Light any other color denim– not acceptable.

### ***“What is the policy on leggings?”***

- Saying that students cannot wear leggings is not entirely accurate.
- They cannot wear leggings as pants.
- Leggings must be worn under skirts or dresses only!
- Leggings can be any pattern or color. This is where your girls can show their creativity.

## FAQ'S- 4

*“My student got a rip in their jeans while they were at school! Should I send a pair of new jeans in case this happens again?”*

- Yes, you can do this but it is not necessary as we have a uniform closet where the kids can borrow a pair of pants without rips or holes.

*“What shoes can my students wear?”*

- This one is answered better by what can the NOT wear:
  - No wheels in shoes
  - No heels more than 2”
  - No flip flops
  - No snow boots or rain boots in the classroom

*Still have questions?*

- Email our headmaster at [gpekron@merit.academy](mailto:gpekron@merit.academy)



# THANK YOU

- The Merit Staff and Board

[www.merit.academy](http://www.merit.academy)