



## 2022-2023 DRESS CODE

Over the last two years, St. Michael's faced unprecedented times as our School navigated the pandemic with courage, perseverance, and grace. During that time, St. Michael's relaxed parts of our dress code. As we head into the 2022-23 year with hope and excitement, St. Michael's is returning to our dress code standards as outlined below. Thank you, St M families, for paying special attention to the examples of what is deemed appropriate school clothing and assisting your child(ren) with adhering to the dress code on a daily basis.

### Dress for the occasion:

We gather to do important work. Our dress reflects the importance St. Michael's places on learning and personal conduct by communicating a level of care and respect for ourselves, others, and the work we do together.

- 1) All clothing worn at school should be neat, clean, without holes/cuts/frays/excessive wear/offensive-inappropriate language/symbols, and worn as designed (e.g., not inside out).
- 2) All shirts should have sleeves. Boys' shirts should have collars.
  - a) **The one modification is that our third through eighth grade students are no longer required to tuck in straight-hemmed golf/collared shirts. If students are wearing a sweater or sweatshirt, they must tuck in the shirt underneath.**
- 3) Shoes should be worn and secured at all times. As St M uses our expansive campus trail system for academic and recreational activities during the school day, students should come to school in sturdy, close-toed shoes.
- 4) Athletic clothing may be required for physical education classes, but not permitted otherwise -- with two exceptions.
  - a) St. Michael's athletic outerwear (jackets) may be worn indoors in cold weather
  - b) Interscholastic team uniforms may be worn on game days.
  - c) **Middle School Note: This year, we will return to Middle Schoolers changing at school in the gym locker rooms for PE. There will no longer be "PE dress down days" as occurred during the pandemic. Students should bring appropriate athletic wear and sneakers on Gym days.**
- 5) Hats, hooded garments (except St. Michael's items, see 4a) and sunglasses may only be worn outside, and sleepwear never worn.
  - a) Parent reminder: students will continue to go outdoors and use our 70-acres for learning and daily activities, so they should wear the right clothing, weather gear, and sturdy shoes daily.

### Balance is key.

We respect the mind, body, and spirit of all people (including ourselves) and seek to keep in balance these aspects as well as the interests of individual expression and a communal need to focus on learning. Our dress reflects this balance, not overemphasizing one aspect (e.g., body), nor one interest (e.g., individual expression over the learning environment).

- 6) Clothes should fit properly, being neither oversized, form-fitting, nor revealing. For instance:
  - a) pants and shorts should be worn at the waist;
  - b) necklines should be no lower than the armpit;
  - c) sleeveless dresses should be at least three-finger widths at the shoulder;
  - d) tops should cover the midriff in front and back, including when arms are raised;



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- e) shorts, tunics, dresses, and skirts should be neatly hemmed and at least fingertip length;
- f) leggings may NOT be worn as pants, but may be worn under items in 6e;
- g) sheer clothing and clothing with cut-outs are not permitted; and
- h) undergarments should be concealed.

**7) Extreme hairstyles and hair colors not naturally occurring are NOT permitted.**

8) Facial piercings and facial hair are not permitted.

9) Writing and large (>2 inches) logos/images on clothing are not permissible inside school, except for "Dragon Dress Days and holidays;" with the exception of students in grades K-2. Students in K-2 may always wear tops with images (not writing or logos) larger than 2 inches.

### We own ourselves.

We seek to develop each student's independence of thought and clear sense of dignity and self-worth. Our dress reflects this commitment to independence and rebuffs attempts to brand students with anything other than a St. Michael's education.

**We strongly suggest families put names in ALL clothing/jackets worn to school.**

### Special Events

#### Dress Up Days

For certain events designated by the School, students should wear either (a) a dress shirt, tie, and long pants with a belt; (b) a dress; or (c) a dress blouse with a dress skirt/pants. Field Trip Dress Code may be altered based upon the destination/activities.

#### Field Trips

When traveling off-campus students may be asked to dress for a formal occasion or in a St. Michael's polo shirt with khaki pants, shorts, or skirt.

#### Dress Down Days

Dress down days are scheduled during the year (e.g., service fund-raisers, as an eighth grade privilege on the last day of each month.) On dress down days, all guidelines and rules remain in place except:

- Athletic clothing is allowed.
- School-appropriate writing and large logos are allowed.
- Other guidelines/rules (e.g., sleepwear, hats) may be relaxed for individual events.

#### Dragon Dress Fridays

Any above-the-waist St. Michael's spiritwear (excluding hats and sunglasses) may be worn in school every Friday. Show your Dragon pride! We love seeing all of the blue and white in our halls.

#### Holidays

Above-the-waist holiday-themed clothes which do not adhere to the dress code may be worn in school. These dates will be published annually.

School administrators are the final arbiters for what is or is not considered appropriate dress.



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### Examples (Applicable rule in parentheses)

Yes	Yes	No	No*
 <p>St. Michael's athletic outerwear allowed indoors. (4)</p>	 <p>Outerwear w/ logo &lt;2 inches (9)</p>	 <p>Athletic wear (4), and hooded garment (5)</p>	 <p>Image is &gt;2 inches (9) *OK grades K-2</p>

Yes	No*	No	No
 <p>Image is &lt;2 inches (9)</p>	 <p>Image is &gt;2 inches (9) *OK in grades K-2</p>	 <p>An undershirt (6H).</p>	 <p>Sheer clothing. (6G)</p>

Yes	No	Yes	No
 <p>Shorts are fingertip length. (6C)</p>	 <p>Shorts not fingertip length. (6C)</p>	 <p>Leggings under a code-conforming layer (like a long tunic or dress) (6)</p>	 <p>Leggings as pants (6)</p>



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Yes	Yes	Yes*	No*
 <p>Collared shirt, tucked in (2)</p>	 <p>Collarless shirt on a girl w/ no images (9)</p>	 <p>Untucked collared shirt*</p> <p><b>*Students will no longer be required to tuck in straight-hemmed golf/collared shirts, though they are welcome to do so.</b></p>	 <p>Image is &gt;2 inches (9) *OK for grades K-2</p>
Yes*	No	Yes*	No
 <p>Collared shirt, tucked in (2)</p> <p><b>*Students will no longer be required to tuck in straight-hemmed golf/collared shirts, though they are welcome to do so.</b></p>	 <p>Collarless shirt on a boy (2)</p>	 <p>Untucked collared shirt (2)</p> <p><b>*Students will no longer be required to tuck in straight-hemmed golf/collared shirts, though they are welcome to do so.</b></p>	 <p>Sleeveless shirt or shirts with cutouts(2)</p>



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### Guiding Principles

The Dress Code helps students develop cultural skills and values consistent with the school's mission. These skills and values guide students to make thoughtful choices in dressing appropriately for school activities, and embody empathy when receiving how others dress. The guiding principles help us pursue these goals.

#### Curricular

How we dress is a form of social communication. By learning this form of communication students develop personal identity and responsibility, as well as awareness of their impact on and interdependence with the larger community. As with any topic, growth requires learning from mistakes. Thus, absent willful disobedience, Dress Code missteps are treated as teachable moments rather than disciplinary offenses.

**To assist this process, each student should keep at school a weather-appropriate (i.e., not shorts in January) code-compliant change of clothes.** Twice a year (Thanksgiving and spring break) these clothes will be sent home to be exchanged for a weather-appropriate set. A student found to be out of Dress Code will be asked to use their change of clothes (which should be replaced the following school day). At St. Michael's parents/guardians are partners in the educational process. Thus, the School will communicate with a student's family when a Dress Code mistake has been made, while families are expected to support the Dress Code.

#### Developmentally Appropriate

Kindergarteners and eighth graders have different needs and skills. This is true academically, physically, and socially-emotionally. The Dress Code recognizes this by adjusting expectations and privileges as students grow.

#### Equitable

In keeping with St. Michael's identity as an inclusive, co-ed school, the Dress Code is equitable to students across gender, race-ethnicity, body type, religion, and socioeconomic status. No aspect of the Dress Code should infringe on a student's physical, cultural, or spiritual needs. Anyone feeling an aspect of the Dress Code is not equitable is welcome to share this with the administration.

#### Manageable & Current

While the Dress Code is curricular, it takes a backseat to the academic curriculum. Thus, it should be as easy as possible for students to execute and faculty to monitor consistently. In order to ensure this as well as reflect what is available and affordable to families (noting some "fashionable" styles will not be appropriate for school), the Dress Code is regularly reviewed by the faculty. In early spring, proposed changes for the following school year are circulated to the community for comment, allowing ample time for purchase of clothing.

#### When principles collide

In instances when guiding principles are at odds with each other the School seeks to balance the principles as best it can. For instance, pursuing the curricular goal of setting an appropriately high standard of dress for students by requiring collared shirts may conflict with the manageability and currentness principle because many (perhaps a majority) of the seemingly school-appropriate shirts found in the girls' section of a store might not have a collar. This is generally not the case in stores' boys' sections. Thus, the collar requirement is removed for girls to prevent placing an undue burden on families shopping for school-appropriate clothing for girls.