

DRESS CODE AND GROOMING AT ASCENSION ACADEMY

There is a direct correlation between a young person's appearance and his or her overall attitude toward school. Since attendance at Ascension Academy is a privilege, every student is expected to abide by this code of uniform attire. All acceptable apparel must be purchased from the Uniform Item list published each year. These may be purchased new or used from the school or from Lands' End:

The Dean of Students must approve any other request for exceptions to the uniform. Students wearing clothing that does not adhere to the expectation below face disciplinary action by the Dean including additional dress up days, detentions, and replacement of inappropriate clothing.

The Code of Acceptable School Attire is as follows:

Middle School

Girls:

Dress-Up Attire: Red-crested sweater, white oxford shirt, Ascension plaid skirt, hose, tights or knee-high socks optional (providing they are solid white or navy blue), dark dress shoes or dress sandals.

Standard Attire: Red, blue or white crested polo shirt (short or long sleeve), khaki or navy pants, shorts or skirt/skort, hose or white socks optional, socks, shoes or sneakers. Outerwear worn during the day must be crested.

Boys:

Dress-Up Attire: Red-crested sweater, navy pants, white oxford shirt, dress shoes and dark socks (or dress boots), brown or black belt, Ascension Academy tie.

Standard Attire: Red, blue or white crested polo shirt (short or long sleeve), navy or khaki pants or shorts, socks, shoes, or sneakers. Outerwear worn during the day must be crested.

High School

Girls:

Dress-Up Attire: Blue-crested blazer, white oxford blouse, navy plaid skirt, white or navy blue socks or hose are optional, dark dress shoes or dress sandals. Ascension Academy striped tie is optional.

Standard Attire: Red, blue, or white crested polo shirt (short or long sleeve), navy or khaki pants, shorts or skirt/skort, brown or black belt, white socks or hose optional, shoes or sneakers. Outerwear worn must be purchased through the school. Students may also wear the official Ascension letter jacket on

all but dress-up days.

Boys:

Dress-Up Attire: Blue-crested blazer, white oxford shirt, khaki pants, black or brown belt, dress shoes and dark socks (or dress boots), Ascension Academy striped tie.

Standard Attire: Red, blue, or white crested polo shirt (short or long sleeve), navy or khaki pants or short, brown or black belt, white socks or hose optional, shoes, or sneakers. Outerwear must be purchased through the school. Students may also wear the official Ascension letter jacket on all but dress-up days.

Important explanations of how students should dress each day:

Blouses and Shirts

- Ascension polo shirts may be worn out of the trousers (not tucked in). Shirts worn on dress-up days must always be tucked in. Boys must wear a belt when polos or shirts are tucked in.
- The blouses and shirts must be clean and well kept.
- Every button except the top two buttons **MUST** be buttoned.
- Cuffs must be buttoned or neatly rolled up.
- **ONLY WHITE** T-shirts may be worn underneath; sleeves may not be longer than oxford shirts.

Trousers, Slacks, and Shorts

- Trousers, slacks, and shorts must be worn at the waist.
- They may not be oversized or baggy, neither on uniform nor on non-uniform days.
- They must be neatly hemmed with no torn or frayed edges.
- Shorts may **NOT** be shorter than 2 inches above the knee.
- Shorts may **NOT** be rolled at the waist or cuffed.

Shoes

- Shoes must be leather or man-made leather on dress day.
- Dress shoes must be solid black, brown, tan, or color that complements uniform.
- Tennis shoes may be worn with the regular, non-dress uniforms. Tennis shoes or sneakers of any kind are not allowed with the dress uniform.
- No boots other than dress cowboy boots are allowed except on dress-up days when boys may substitute dress boots. Sandals are permitted but no flip-flops, beach footwear, Crocs, and slippers/slides.
- Sling-back shoes are acceptable for girls.

Socks and Leg Wear

- Socks and legwear consist of only socks, hose or tights., For girls on dress-up days, these must be a solid color white or navy blue.
- White socks are allowed for athletic shoes.
- Socks, when worn with the dress uniform, must be dark.

Skirts and Shorts

- Girls must wear plaid skirts on all dress-up days during the entire year.
- Skirts must not be shorter than 2 or 3 inches above the top of the knee.
- Skirts may **NOT** be rolled at the waist.

- Leave plenty of hem when shortening clothes to allow for growth spurts.

Fashion Accessories

- Accessories should be in good taste and not detract from the uniform.
- NO ear gauges are allowed.
- Boys may not have painted fingernails.
- Girls may not wear more than 3 earrings in each ear.
- NO pierced visible body parts (except ears), nose rings, or visible tattoos are allowed.

Outer Garments

- Students may wear the school blazer (red or blue), the red cardigan sweater, or the school-authorized red or blue fleece. Hoodies are permitted as long as they have been purchased through the school. The hoodie must have the school or a school team logo. Hoodies and other school-identified sweatshirts may be worn on school trips. High school students may wear the official Ascension letter jacket any day except when dress-up attire is required.
- Outer garments may NOT be worn tied around the waist.
- Blankets may NOT be brought to school.

Hair and Facial Hair

- Hair must be neat, clean, and well-groomed. Professionally acceptable hairstyles of an appropriate natural color, braids, extensions, and dreadlocks may be worn.
- Boys' choice of hairstyle may not extend beyond the bottom of the oxford shirt collar.
- Boys must be clean-shaven with sideburns no longer than the bottom of the ear lobe.
- Boys are not allowed to wear their hair in a man bun or ponytail.

Caps and Headwear

- Caps, hoods, and headwear are NOT ACCEPTABLE except as a Halloween costume or on a special "hat" day. Exceptions will be made for religious observation.

PLEASE NOTE: All students are expected to be in complete compliance with the dress code from the time they enter the building in the morning until after exiting the last class in the afternoon. Students whose attire for the day falls below expectations in either what is worn or how it is worn will be required to be in dress-up attire one or more school days as assigned by one of the deans.

Relaxed Dress Day Expectations

From time to time students are permitted a relaxed dress day, whether as means to raise monies (Dress-Down Days as set by the head of school) for some school cause or to reward students for exemplary conduct or performance (Free-Dress Days as set by the student services team). On such days, students must adhere to these expectations:

- Students wearing jeans with holes in them must wear solid colored tights under the jeans. No skin should be showing. Students may wear sandals or boots, but flip-flops of any kind or rubber shower shoes are NEVER acceptable.
- No mini-length apparel is acceptable. Dresses, skirts, and shorts MUST NOT be shorter than two inches above the top of the knee; this includes any slits in skirts.
- If T-shirts are worn, they may NOT have any writing that is suggestive in nature or have slogans that have meanings or innuendoes out of character for our school. T-shirts MAY NOT advertise alcohol or tobacco products or in any other way be in poor taste. The final determination lies ultimately with the Dean of Students.
- Clothing itself should not be of such a nature that it is considered suggestive or immodest.

No extremely tight clothing, spaghetti straps, bare sundresses, low necklines, shirts, or blouses which reveal any part of the abdominal area, clothing made of clingy, revealing fabrics, etc., are ever acceptable or appropriate. Shorts, jeans, or slacks must not be ripped or have holes in them exposing skin. Students may not wear extremely baggy pants that hang down below the waist. The final determination lies ultimately with the Dean of Students.

- Wearing caps or hats of any kind during the school day is never acceptable in the school building even if the student is out of uniform. Earrings for boys or any other visible pierced body parts (i.e., noses, eyebrows, tongues, etc.) are never acceptable during the school day or at school events. Girls may not have pierced noses, eyebrows, tongues, etc. during the school day or at school events.

While “relaxed dress” days are an opportunity for the students to express their individuality, the attire should not be of nature as to cause a distraction and consequently interfere with the learning process.

Spirit-T Shirt Day Expectations

Students may wear a T-shirt or sweatshirt with logo, lettering, or emblem identifying an Ascension Academy approved team or club. In addition, students may wear a shirt that they have purchased while representing Ascension at an academic or athletic competition. Normal Ascension slacks, shorts, or skorts are expected to be worn with the T-shirt ensemble.

Seniors may wear blue-jeans with their spirit-T shirt on Spirit-T days.

Enforcement of School Attire at Ascension Academy

The school deans inform students at assemblies in the first two weeks of the school year about:

- Acceptable uniform options
- Proper wearing of school attire, both regular and dress options
- Appropriate attire on spirit T-shirt days
- Appropriate attire on dress-down days

They also go over how the school enforces the school attire policy. These measures include the following:

- The students are required to wear the proper dress uniform the following day for not adhering to the dress code in effect for the day in question.
- Consecutive days wearing the dress uniform are given for repeated uniform infractions.
- Any student wearing inappropriate clothing on dress down or spirit T-shirt days is asked to change the inappropriate article of clothing using school-supplied garments from the Ascension clothes closet.