



ST. GEORGE'S INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Dress Code and Appearance

Excerpted from the 2017-18 St. George's Family Handbook

In choosing St. George's, you have chosen a school with a "traditional" or "moderate" dress code. Students are expected to be neat, well-groomed, and appropriately dressed during school hours. St. George's is most interested in instilling the value of positive appearance and personal responsibility regarding one's clothing as opposed to endorsing a particular style or current fashion trend. Yet, due to the multitude of clothing variations on the market today, a consistent dress code is extremely difficult to oversee. St. George's greatly appreciates and encourages familial and student support in its effort to maintain a consistent code of dress. St. George's believes that it is the responsibility of families to see that their children are appropriately dressed in accordance with the dress code when they leave for school in the morning and to encourage their children to share in this responsibility as soon as possible.

Please read the St. George's Dress Code carefully. In an age of ever-changing styles, families are urged to keep the dress code in mind when they make decisions regarding the appropriateness of certain attire for school. Any item of clothing, accessory, or hair style/color that draws undue attention to the student and therefore disrupts the learning process is considered inappropriate. Teachers and administrators will confer with students whose appearance does not conform to the dress code. It may be necessary for students in violation of the dress code to call families for replacement clothing.

If you are ever uncertain about the appropriateness of an article of clothing, please have your student bring it to a Division Director for clarification prior to actually wearing it to school. Division and Campus Directors' decisions are final.

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL

St. George's is a school committed to personal growth, mutual respect, engaged learning, and meaningful relationships. As such, the dress code is grounded in those goals, and is an essential element in creating a learning community that balances individual student expression with the needs of the learning program.

Adolescence is a time of profound growth and change for all students. Taken in concert with the vagaries of fashion trends, shaping guidelines that balance a common-sense approach to self-expression with an approach that prioritizes learning is the goal of the dress code.

Students should keep the following guidelines in mind as they choose their clothing:

1. Appearance of clothes and hair should be kept neat and clean.
2. Undergarments may not be visible at any time.
3. Hair styles should be kept trim and out of the eyes. Students may color their hair, so long as the color is a natural hair color (brown, blonde, black, or red; no purple, pink, etc.).
4. No body piercings are allowed, with the exception of earrings in earlobes.
5. Clothes may not be baggy or have holes, frays, or tears, and they may not be "cut-offs."

6. **Loungewear or athletic wear is not permitted during the academic day unless specific permission is given by the Division Director or Dean of Students for special events.**
7. **Students may wear St. George's sweatshirts, or sweatshirts where the corporate logo is visible only on the front of the shirt. TSSAA Championship or college sweatshirts may also be worn.**
8. **Any attire with references to, or logos for, alcohol or drugs is prohibited.**
9. Casual beach or athletic flip-flops or shoes with heels or platforms taller than 2 inches are not allowed. Any shoes with laces should have the laces tied.
10. Dresses, skirts, or shorts may not be higher above the top of the knee than a horizontally placed credit card. Any tights or leggings worn may only be worn under skirts or dresses that still meet the length requirement.
11. No blue denim (regardless of fit or shade) or camouflage may be worn. Cargo-style pants, shorts, or skirts are not permitted.
12. No headwear (which includes hoods, hats, visors, bandanas, etc.) may be worn inside the academic building during the school day.

Boys, specifically:

1. Faces must be cleanly shaven with sideburns that do not extend past the earlobes.
2. Shirts are to be tucked in at all times.
3. Belts are to be worn.

Girls, specifically:

1. Attire should not be revealing. In the case of lower cut (or some button front) shirts, girls need to wear camisoles or tank tops underneath them.
2. Undergarments must not be visible, including through the clothes.
3. Visible shirt straps must be at least two inches wide. If a student wears a shirt that is lace, crochet, or sheer enough for her undergarment or skin to be seen, then beneath that, she must wear a shirt with straps at least two inches wide.
4. No halter tops of any sort are allowed.

On Fridays, the school community dresses more formally. This "Friday dress" is also worn on special occasions in the life of the school.

Student Friday Dress is:

1. Collared, white, oxford-cloth dress shirts, tucked into solid khaki slacks. Avoid cargo pants. Girls may wear a skirt that is dress code length.
2. Belts if belt loops are present.
3. Navy blue sports jackets with school patch. Boys must also wear a neck or bow tie.
4. **Closed-toe dress shoes (and socks when appropriate). Girls may wear more formal open-toe shoes.**

As trends change and wording can be difficult to specify to all occasions, the school reserves the right to decide if a student's dress fits with the spirit of the dress code and to assign discipline as needed. The school will typically apply the following strategies:

1. Dress code violations may be addressed with a reminder or may result in a referral or progressive consequences determined by the severity and frequency of the violations.
2. **In the event that a student's dress varies too far from the dress code, families will be called to bring the student appropriate clothes, regardless of the number of prior dress code infractions.**

The time spent in the office will be designated as “unexcused” since the student’s personal choice is causing the absence(s) from class.

Dress Code for Wellness and Aquatics Classes

In order to participate in intramural and fitness classes, middle school students will be required to have an approved Gryphon wellness uniform available from the school’s spirit shop. **Upper school students may wear gym shorts (knee length) and any St. George’s t-shirt.** All students must wear tennis shoes for wellness classes.

For aquatics classes, female students are required to wear one-piece racing swimsuits that are suitable for an educational environment, while male students will be required to wear boxer-style swimsuits that are suitable for an educational environment. At no time during aquatics classes will a female student be allowed to wear a two-piece suit, nor will a male student be allowed to wear a racing swimsuit. Students should have some type of easy on/easy off water shoe or sandal to wear while walking between the gym and the natatorium. Please plan accordingly for these dress requirements. Students also will need to bring towels for their aquatics classes.