Stuart Hall Dress Code 2020-2021

Dress Code Philosophy
Stuart Hall School believes that dress is a reflection of both individuality and membership in a community. The dress code is an extension of our mission and academic program and is intended to create an environment conducive to learning, to reinforce community standards, and to help students understand how their choices affect the community. Dress should balance individual comfort and self-expression with consideration for one’s role as a community member. Dress should also demonstrate the sense of purpose with which students and adults approach our work during the academic day. The dress code additionally reflects the idea that learning happens in a variety of settings and situations; student dress should be safe and situationally appropriate. Students are expected to observe the spirit of the dress code as well as the letter. The Stuart Hall School Dress Code establishes and reinforces a school environment that is:

- Culturally inclusive
- Safe
- Respectful
- Conducive to learning
- Preparatory for college, careers, and life
- Designed around the needs of students and the community

Dress Code Basics
In line with the Dress Code Philosophy, the following standards will apply at all times:

- Clothing should be in good repair, without stains, rips, or holes, including those intentionally included in the design of the clothing.
- Head coverings (hat, hoods, or other coverings) should never be worn indoors other than for religious or medical purposes.
- Overcoats, winter coats, and other apparel specifically designed to protect against cold or inclement weather should never be worn indoors.
- Pajamas and other sleepwear should never be worn anywhere except in the dormitories.
- Undergarments should never be visible.
- Attire, including personal items such as backpacks, should never have violent, profane, or obscene language or images.
Attire, including personal items such as backpacks, should never have images or language depicting drugs, alcohol, nicotine products, or any illegal item or activity.

Attire, including personal items such as backpacks, should never have images or language that insults, stigmatizes, threatens, or intimidates an individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, religious practices, gender, sex, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, or other personal attributes.

At a minimum, students should be dressed each day so that the areas marked in red on the following figure are fully covered:

These areas are intended to represent the shoulders, the entire torso, and the upper portion of the upper leg. These areas should remain covered even as students physically move around as is required by school activities, so students should be mindful of this when selecting their clothing.

Dress Code Categories and Guidelines

Free Dress
When no other category or specific item of dress is called for, students may wear Free Dress. Any clothing that meets the Dress Code Basics satisfies the expectations of Free Dress. Free Dress will also apply on days that have dress down themes, although some additional modifications may be introduced depending on the theme of the day.

Everyday Dress
From the start of the day through the end of the class day, students will meet the expectations described here for Everyday Dress unless some other type of dress has specifically been called for.
Students have the following options for Everyday Dress:

- **Tops**: Students are welcome to wear sweatshirts or sweaters, t-shirts or ties, or anything else that feels comfortable and meets the Dress Code Basics.
- **Bottoms**: Students are welcome to wear jeans or khakis, dresses or shorts, or anything else that feels comfortable and meets the Dress Code Basics. The only exception is that athletic wear such as gym shorts, mesh shorts, spandex shorts, yoga pants, running tights or leggings, track pants, and sweatpants are not appropriate for Everyday Dress.
- **Shoes**: Students are welcome to wear sneakers, sandals, dress shoes, flats, or any other shoe that has a hard sole and material over the top of the foot and the heel to hold the footwear in place.

**Technical Dress**

Some school activities require specific dress requirements in order for students to participate in the activities fully and safely. Examples of this include science labs, athletic classes or practices, and formal presentations. Specific requirements for dress that fall into this category are called Technical Dress.

Technical Dress requirements are given by individual faculty and staff members, typically in a course syllabus or as part of an activity description. Students are expected to know when they must comply with particular requirements for a course or activity and to be properly equipped to do so. Students who are required to be in technical dress for a class or activity are permitted to change before and after that activity.

**Academic Casual Dress**

This is the school equivalent of Business Casual. It is used when school activities call for a higher level of formality than Everyday Dress without needing the requirements of Formal Dress.

Academic Casual will be required for students attending field trips unless otherwise specified.

Academic Casual may be required of a grade, division, or the entire school for on-campus performances and guest speakers; some ceremonies; and other events as determined by the School.

Students have the following options for Academic Casual Dress:
• Tops: Students will wear a long-sleeve or short-sleeve collared shirt, or a blouse or top that is equivalent in formality to a collared shirt. Shirts and blouses must be tucked in unless specifically tailored to be worn untucked. Alternatively, students may wear a dress.
• Bottoms: Students will wear khakis, corduroys, dress pants, or a skirt. Pants may not be made of denim. Students wearing a dress or skirt may choose to wear opaque leggings underneath.
• Shoes: Students will wear dress shoes or dress sandals (low or flat heels are recommended for safety).

**Formal Dress**

Members of the Stuart Hall community wear Formal Dress on designated days throughout the year to celebrate and show respect for special events, including certain chapel services. These events are times when our community comes together to honor achievements, welcome visitors, and mark milestones, and formal dress reinforces the seriousness and respect with which each member of our community approaches these events. As part of our mission to prepare students for success, Stuart Hall recognizes that certain occasions call for formal dress and provides opportunities for students to learn to dress appropriately for these occasions. Formal Dress days will be identified for students and families at the beginning of each school year, and changes to these plans will be announced at least two days in advance.

Students have the following options for Formal Dress:
• Option 1
  o Collared button-front shirt tucked into pants or skirt
  o Tie, bowtie, or dress scarf (top button of shirt must be buttoned when worn with a tie or bowtie)
  o Blazer or sport coat
  o Dress pants or dress skirt
  o Dress shoes or dress sandals (low or flat heels are recommended for safety). Rain or snow boots may be worn in inclement weather.
• Option 2
  o Collarless dress blouse or dressy knit top (may be worn tucked in or untucked)
  o Blazer or sport coat
  o Dress pants or dress skirt
  o Dress shoes or dress sandals (low or flat heels are recommended for safety). Rain or snow boots may be worn in inclement weather.
• Option 3
  o Dress
○ Blazer or sport coat
○ Dress shoes or dress sandals (low or flat heels are recommended for safety). Rain or snow boots may be worn in inclement weather.

● Option 4
○ Dress representative of other cultures consistent with the formality of Formal Dress expectations and worn in an appropriately respectful manner
○ Dress shoes or dress sandals (low or flat heels are recommended for safety). Rain or snow boots may be worn in inclement weather.

Because Formal Dress is more specific, it can also be more confusing. The following clarifications are offered to help reduce that confusion.

● Clothing for formal occasions is not made of denim, fleece, t-shirt material, or sweatshirt material.
● Dress pants and skirts typically:
  ○ are made of woven fabric (not knit)
  ○ have interior pockets (not sewn on the outside or attached with rivets)
  ○ do not have elastic or gathering at the ankle
  ○ do not have drawstring waists
● Dress shirts do not include heavy sweaters worn without a collared shirt underneath, or shirts made primarily of corduroy or flannel.
● Button-front shirts are also called button-down shirts. These shirts have buttons for the full front of the shirt; a polo shirt is not a button-front shirt.
● Dresses for formal days are typically made using heavier fabric, tailoring, lining, or other details. T-shirt dresses (made of lightweight jersey knit with a banded collar) are not appropriate for formal dress days.
● Anything that does not specifically fall into one of the items named above is not in formal dress.
● A dress scarf is not the same as an outerwear scarf.
● The terms “dress shoes” and “dress sandals” are meant to allow a variety of footwear options for students. However, sneakers, athletic shoes, casual or outdoor sandals, and rubber clogs are not acceptable under Formal Dress.