

2017-2018 Student Dress Code / Uniform Guidelines

Annapolis Christian Academy is committed to establishing an atmosphere that promotes excellence in all areas of life including dress and appearance. To promote excellence and beauty in appearance and dress and to provide for a high quality academic environment, uniform standards of student dress and appearance have been established.

Uniforms are to be worn every school day, with exceptions for special days as determined by the appropriate administrator. Wearing uniforms other than those on the approved ACA list is a violation of our dress code policy. As it is difficult to fully define every nuance of the “look and feel” of the Annapolis uniform, the Principals will clarify and define expectations as needed, in order to maintain the appropriate standard for student appearance.

General Uniform Requirements:

- ▼ **SHIRTS:** Grammar students must keep shirts tucked in at all times on campus during school hours (exceptions to this rule include playground sports activities). In the Schools of Logic & Rhetoric, males must keep shirts tucked in, but female uniform shirts meant to be worn un-tucked are not required to be tucked in. Shirts should be neither too tight nor too baggy, fitting loosely enough to be comfortable and modest and of a sufficient length to be tucked in. If an oxford button dress shirt is worn, it must be buttoned appropriately at all times. For undershirts, students are only allowed to wear a plain white short-sleeve undershirt with no visible logos. The undershirt may not extend lower than the uniform shirt’s hem unless it is tucked in. Students wishing to dress for cooler weather should wear long-sleeved uniform shirts or sweaters, instead of long-sleeved undershirts under a short-sleeved uniform shirt.
- ▼ **PANTS/SKIRTS/SHORTS:** Hems of skirts and pants and shorts must be kept neat and of appropriate length. Pants are to be neither too tight nor too baggy and must be worn at the waistline. Fringed edges or any other unusual alterations to the uniform are not permitted. Girls’ skirt length must be no more than 1” above the kneecap when standing straight and skirt is level at the waistline. All pants should be no longer than the bottom of the heel on the shoe. Students may wear uniform shorts approaching the knee, and are not to shorten the length of the uniform shorts. Logic & Rhetoric students wearing shorts should expect to have a minimum inseam of 11”.
- ▼ **BELTS:** Belts must be worn at all times by boys while on campus during school hours. If girls are wearing pants or shorts with belt loops, they are required to wear a belt as well. Belts may not be worn with skirts. Belts must be solid black, brown, or khaki, or those on the approved uniform list with a normal-sized belt buckle (no studs or designs of any kind are permitted on the belt or buckle).
- ▼ **SHOES:** For all students, shoes must be worn at all times on campus during school hours. **Shoes must have a fully enclosed toe and heel.** No sandals of any kind are allowed. All shoelaces must be tied. Loafers, boat/deck shoes are encouraged. The style of footwear should coordinate with your uniform (e.g., don’t wear cowboy boots with shorts).
 - Grammar School:* Shoe sole and heels may not be more than 1” in height. On non-chapel days, Grammar students are permitted to wear rubber-soled athletic/tennis shoes **without** embellishments, characters, sparkles, wheels, or lights. Also, girls may wear boots from the approved uniform list on non-chapel days. Casual slip-on shoes such as ballet shoes or slipper-type shoes do not provide adequate support and therefore do not qualify as either dress or athletic shoes. For Chapel days, grammar students are to wear black, brown, navy, or khaki dress shoes. For boys, this includes black, brown, navy, or khaki cowboy boots.
 - Schools of Logic & Rhetoric:* Students are required to wear non-athletic / non-tennis shoes that are black, brown, navy, or khaki. Shoe soles and heels may not be more than 1” in height for students in the School of Logic. Students in the School of Rhetoric are permitted to wear heels no more than 3” high. Combat style boots are not permitted. On non-chapel days only, students may wear boots that are black, brown, navy, or khaki in color; minor, non-distracting embellishments are appropriate. Only boys may wear boots (in the approved colors) on chapel days.
- ▼ **SOCKS:** Girls in the grammar school are required to wear solid white or navy socks or footed tights (or uniform socks selected by the school) at all times on campus during school hours. On chapel days, girls in the grammar school are required to wear solid white knee socks or white footed tights. Boys in the grammar school are required to wear solid white, khaki or dark socks with their shoes at all times on campus during school hours. Boys in the Schools of Logic & Rhetoric are required to wear dark or khaki socks. Girls in the Schools of Logic & Rhetoric are not *required* to wear socks, but may wear solid white, black, or navy socks or footed tights. Girls may also wear skin-toned tights/hose. For all students, socks with colored trim are not appropriate.
- ▼ **OUTERWEAR:** During school hours on campus, students are permitted to wear uniform approved sweaters and jackets. These include letterman jackets, chapel blazers, and those sweaters listed on the specific uniform guidelines published each school year. The purpose of the jacket or sweater is to keep the student warm, not to cover up the uniform. On cold or rainy days, students are permitted to wear non-uniform jackets or rain jackets while outside, but they must be removed and stored in a locker or on a jacket hook upon entering a school building.
- ▼ **HATS/CAPS:** Hats, caps, or other head coverings such as beanies and bandanas are not a part of the uniform and are not allowed to be worn on campus during school hours.

Chapel Uniform Requirements:

Chapel uniforms are to be worn on chapel days and other special days or performances when designated by the Principal. Please refer to the Lands' End Uniform Ordering Guidelines for the specific clothing and apparel required for Chapel Dress.

Uniform Violations

Should a student come to school out of uniform or in the wrong uniform, the student will receive a uniform infraction and the parent may be notified and asked to bring the appropriate uniform item. Repeated or calculated offenses to the school's uniform policies will be considered disobedience and rebellion and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the administration.

General Grooming

Students are expected to be well-groomed while on campus during school hours. A student's general appearance, including hair length and style, should be neat, clean, and non-distracting. Uniforms are also expected to be kept neat and clean in appearance (ironed and washed without holes or stains). Examples of inappropriate grooming include excessively long hair on boys (i.e. in the eyes, below the top of the ear, below the top of the collar, facial hair), unnaturally colored hair, pony-tails or earrings on boys, any body piercing for boys or girls, excessively wrinkled clothing, and any visible tattoos or ink markings. Students wearing perfume, cologne, aftershave, or other scents/oils should apply them in moderation; heavy scents are a distraction.

Pre-Kindergarten: Students are not required to wear uniforms. Instead, they may wear comfortable play clothes with closed in shoes. Spirit shirts are available for purchase in the school office.

Grammar School: In the Grammar school, girls are not permitted to wear makeup. Jewelry, headbands, hair bows and other accessories must coordinate with the uniforms (red, navy, black, brown, white) and not be overly excessive to the point of distraction. As a matter of safety, dangling earrings, if worn, must not exceed one inch in length.

Schools of Logic & Rhetoric: Jewelry, headbands, hair bows and other accessories must not be excessive or distracting. As a matter of safety, dangling earrings must not exceed one inch in length. Female students may wear cosmetics in moderation. Moderation is defined as "natural, non-distracting look with light color."

Spirit Day Guidelines

Certain days are designated to promote school spirit. Students are encouraged to show their school spirit by wearing official ACA Spirit t-shirts or official ACA sports team jerseys with dark blue denim or khaki capris, pants, or shorts that meet general dress code guidelines (i.e., not too tight, shorts are of walking or Bermuda length, free of holes, etc). Spirit shirts are available for purchase in the school office. Clothing must be neither too tight nor too loose—no skinny jeans are to be worn. If any guidelines for Spirit Days are violated, students will be required to call home to have clothes brought to school and may lose future Spirit Dress day privileges.

Grammar School: Normal school guidelines apply for shoes and socks on Spirit days for grammar students.

Logic & Rhetoric Schools: Students in the Schools of Logic & Rhetoric may wear athletic shoes and white socks. Students may also wear House t-shirts as Spirit apparel.

Free Dress Day Guidelines

Occasionally students will have opportunity to receive a free dress day. Students in free dress are still expected to adhere to our basic standards of appearance and grooming. Clothing is to be neat, clean, and modest; not too tight, not too loose. Clothing must not be sheer, stained, have holes, or include inappropriate graphics or writing. Possible clothing options include jeans, capris, long pants, shorts of uniform length, skirts/dresses of uniform length, shirts/t-shirts with sleeves, hoodies, sweaters, etc. Clothing that does not adhere to these guidelines includes skinny jeans, leggings worn as pants, pajamas, tank/spaghetti-strap tops, etc. Dress guidelines for shoes and socks are the same as for Spirit Days. Students are encouraged to view free dress days as an opportunity to dress nicely while not in uniform.

Special Events and Occasions

Throughout the course of the school year, there are a limited number of special events and occasions that necessitate other guidelines (E.g., Fall Retreat, Beach Bash, Spring Formal, etc.). For these events and occasions, any specific dress code guidelines will be distributed by the Principal.

Uniform Swap Closet

A uniform recycling program is in place and available as a swap closet accessible for all students and families.