



## **DRESS CODE**

### **Our Philosophy**

The goal of AIM Academy's Dress Code is to create an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Our Dress Codes support good grooming, neat appearance, and age-appropriate attire. Students are expected to appear tastefully dressed, in properly fitting clothing, appropriate to the educational environment. Clothing can contribute to a sense of pride and professionalism, and reinforces the message that school is important business. This is particularly important for our high-school students who will soon experience job/internship interviews and other professional workforce expectations. We understand that wardrobe choices depend on individual taste and values. Establishing a clear unambiguous dress code is challenging and as a result, certain arbitrary elements may appear. The Dean of Students is the final arbiter of any dispute regarding the Dress Code.

### **Lower School Dress Code**

- All clothing must be clean and in good repair (e.g., no rips or tears).
- All hats and hoods must be removed inside of buildings.
- All shirts are in dress code as long as they cover the midriff, chest, back, and substantially cover the shoulders. Strapless or spaghetti-strapped tops or dresses are not allowed.
- Hoodies and T-shirts may be worn.
- Khakis, chinos, cargo pants, jeans, leggings, and dress pants are in dress code. Shorts that fall closer to the knee than the hip are in dress code. Cotton sweatpants are not allowed.
- Skirts and dresses that fall closer to the knee than the hip are in dress code.
- Clothing and accessories bearing images or messages should be appropriate for school and must promote a lifestyle that is consistent with good taste, educational values, and general wellness. The display of images or slogans with questionable, offensive, disturbing, or double meanings, and those that strain community relationships, are prohibited.
- All shoes should be chosen with playground safety in mind as students will participate in recess on a daily basis. Sneakers, shoes, boots, and sandals with a back are in dress code, but must have a heel less than two inches. Footwear with wheels are not permitted.

### **Middle and Upper School Dress Code**

- All clothing must be clean and in good repair (e.g., no tears).
- All hats and hoods must be removed inside of buildings.
- All shirts are in dress code as long as they cover the midriff, chest, back, and substantially cover the shoulders. Strapless or spaghetti-strapped tops or dresses are not allowed.
- Hoodies and T-shirts may be worn as long as any total image, insignia, and lettering can be covered by your fist. (The AIM logo is an exception and may be larger.)
- Khakis, chinos, cargo pants, jeans, leggings, and dress pants are in dress code. Shorts that fall closer to the knee than the hip are in dress code. Sweatpants are not allowed.
- Modest length skirts and dresses that fall closer to the knee than the hip are in dress code.
- Clothing and accessories bearing images or messages should be appropriate for school and must not promote a lifestyle that is inconsistent with good taste, educational values, and general wellness. The display of images or slogans with questionable, offensive, disturbing, or double meanings, and those that strain community relationships, are prohibited.
- Sneakers, shoes, boots, and sandals with a back are in dress code, but must have a heel less than two inches. Footwear with wheels are not permitted.



### **Exceptions**

1. Students may be asked to dress more formally for certain public events such as concerts, presentations, Awards Night, game day for sports teams, etc.
2. Students may be permitted to dress more casually for sporting events, class trips (e.g., to a water park), “dress-down” days, etc.
3. Students must change into athletic apparel for after-school practice after dismissal. Students may be allowed to wear their team athletic uniform on game-days with prior permission.
4. Students who feel they cannot adhere to the dress code on an ongoing, non-emergent basis must submit their request for approval in writing to the Dean of Students. Prior written approval is not needed in the case of an emergency (e.g., wearing athletic pants over a leg cast).

### **Accountability**

1. Parents are to ensure that their children understand and abide by the dress code.
2. Teachers are to check during attendance that students are dressed properly and take corrective measures for those who are not.
3. The Assistant Head of School and Division Heads, along with the Dean of Students, will ensure that this policy is available to parents, students and teachers, and take appropriate disciplinary measures for repeat offenders.