



Independence Classical Academy

Dress Code Policy 21/22

Purpose

A school dress code is crucial to a successful classical school, accomplishing three key goals. First, it diminishes the burden of thinking about clothing and fashion that can become all-encompassing for many students and removes distractions in the classroom and redoubles focus on the task at hand. Second, it helps students take school more seriously, by acknowledging through dress that we respect fellow classmates, teachers, and the common enterprise of education. Third, it develops school identity and pride. All students are therefore expected to adhere to the following dress code policy. When questions about aspects of the dress code arise, the student is expected to follow the general and leading spirit of the policy, which is to diminish distractions, show respect, and elevate the tenor of the school. As with all policies, the dress code policy can be amended at the recommendation of the appropriate committee (SAC) and approval by the Governing Board.

The most up to date dress code policy will be posted on the school's website.

PE Dress Code

All students who participate in PE will need to dress in PE uniform on PE days or be docked participation points and/or be subject to written assignment.

- A short- or long- sleeved PE T-shirt (with logo) in light gray.
- Navy athletic shorts (with logo).
- Shorts must adhere to the same length requirements as the school uniform policy.
- Shirts may not be tight-fitting.
- Shoes should be athletic sneaker style.

In cooler weather students may opt to wear:

- Solid-colored navy or gray sweatpants/sweatshirts with brand logo no larger than a quarter
- Sweatpants/sweatshirt with ICA logo, available through the school uniform vendor

Dress Code Details

Any uniform issues not specifically addressed in this uniform policy will be resolved considering school spirit, with final discretion lying with the school administration.

Temporary exceptions to the clothing requirements of this policy may be granted by school administration for hardship. Upon request, reasonable accommodations in the Dress Code Policy shall be made for students with disabilities, religious convictions which conflict with the code, or otherwise at the discretion of the administration. Specific questions can be directed to the front office, and the school administration will make ultimate decision on permissibility. Complete Dress Code is found below, with the minimum adherence expected:

All Students

- No logos, prints, or words (larger than a quarter) other than the official ICA logo are allowed.
- No cargo pants or cargo shorts are allowed.
- Shirts should be tucked in.
- Shirts will be polo style and are *not* required to have ICA logo (unless worn with jeans) and can be in the following colors **ONLY**: red, blue (light blue, royal blue, or navy blue), or white.
- ICA T-shirts are for spirit days, PE, and early elementary students (optional) only.
- Belts should be worn with all pants/shorts. Belts should be solid black or brown. Students in grades K-2 who opt to wear ICA athletic uniform (PE) or are wearing standard uniform style shorts with elastic waist with no belt loops are exempt from the belt code. However, **if pants/shorts have belt loops, then the students should have a belt to meet dress code at all grade levels.**
- Students must be neat and tidy in appearance.
- Socks should be white, black, or navy in solid colors (no prints);
- Shorts/pants/skorts must be navy blue or khaki/tan. **NO** other colors/patterns allowed.
- Shoes must be closed-toe, close-heel, rubber sole, and no heels higher than 1 inch. Shoes should not be brightly colored, and must be in basic colors (i.e. navy, white, gray, brown, tan, or black); Sneakers may have small stripe, logo, or patterned section if necessary. Slip-on style shoes (Sperry, Deck Shoes, Hey Dude, etc...) are permissible except for PE days, and K-2 students opting for athletic gear.
- No hats are allowed inside the school (only winter hats for outdoors only in cooler months);
- Jackets/fleece/sweatshirts may be worn to school but must be removed prior to entering the classrooms/offices/cafeteria/etc... unless it is an ICA approved outerwear item (available through uniform vendor). ICA outerwear may be worn on campus and in the classrooms. For safety and security reasons, **NO** hoodies are permitted to be worn at any time, indoors or outdoors.
- No visible tattoos/body art or piercings, other than stud earrings for girls.
- No gauge earrings are allowed; no dangling earrings are allowed; all other visible piercings must be removed during school.
- Jeans may not have rips or tears, be acid-washed or colors. Traditional, denim color, 5 pocket jeans only will be permitted. Small areas of pocket or waist embellishments are permissible if in good taste and not distracting. Jeans may not be black.
- Button up, Oxford style shirts (long or short sleeve) or ***Polo shirt with ICA logo*** **MUST be worn with jeans**, as to not create too casual of an appearance in dress while at ICA. *No non-ICA polo style or t-shirts may be worn with jeans, including ICA t-shirts and dry fit shirts, unless it is a school "spirit day."*
- Boots should be standard, low heel, traditional work-style cowboy boots. No heels, spurs, or adornment permitted.
- Students in grades K-2 will be permitted (not required) to wear athletic gear daily. Athletic shorts are elastic waist, and do not require a belt. Students should have shirt tucked in and wear traditional tennis style sneakers. Upper grades may only wear PE uniform items on designated PE days.
- NO "holster style" belt clips permitted (i.e. for pocketknives, multi-tools, phone cases, etc...) at ICA.
- NO "wheelie" type shoes, or "light-up" shoes are permitted at ICA.

- No earbuds, smart watches (used to communicate), or other Bluetooth enabled devices are permitted on campus at ICA.
- Jewelry (other than specific earring policy listed above, and accessories policy listed below) should be discrete, minimalist, and coordinated with ICA uniforms as to not distract from learning.
- Undergarments should not be visible at any time during school hours at ICA, during school events, or on field trips.

Boys

- Shorts must be no higher than 3” above the knee, and not fall below the knee.
- Hair should be neatly styled; hair color should be natural-looking and not distracting.
- Belts should have standard buckle. Small embellishments are allowed but should be tasteful and fitting of our school spirit.

Girls

- Shorts must be no higher than 3” above the knee.
- No skirts, dresses, or jumpers will be permitted at ICA; Skorts *are* permitted. Skirts with built-in shorts underneath are considered skorts and thereby permissible.
- No jeggings, or leggings will be permitted at ICA.
- Capri style uniform pants are permitted but may not be “jeggings” style.
- No make-up in grades K-5th. Make-up in 6th-8th, when used, should be natural-looking.
- Hair should be styled. Hair color should be natural-looking and not distracting.
- Accessories such as barrettes, bows, headbands, or other hair accessories will not be oversized, excessive, or distracting. They must be in school colors and in spirit with school culture.
- Belts should have standard buckle. Small embellishments are allowed but should be tasteful and fitting of our school spirit.

REMEMBER TO LABEL YOUR CHILD'S OUTERWEAR. EVERYTHING WILL LOOK ALIKE IN THE LOST AND FOUND.

Spirit Wear

Spirit Wear is not part of the school dress code but can be worn outside of school to show support for the school. Volunteers will often wear Spirit Wear when serving at the school. Spirit Wear can be purchased by parents and supporters of Independence Classical Academy through **the front office at specific times of the year**. Sweaters, jackets, and other outwear will be available to order prior to start of school and throughout the school year at specific times (through vendor). Gym clothes (mesh athletic shorts and t-shirts) **may** be worn daily for younger students in grades K-2, and **only** on outdoor PE days for older students (according to schedule).

Backpacks, Book Bags and Lunch Boxes

Backpacks, book bags and lunch boxes are not considered to be a part of the school dress code. However, they are expected to be clean, in good condition and appropriate for a school environment. Backpacks and bags shall not include any items which detracts from the school's orderly and disciplined environment. They shall not have dangling accessories attached and may

not be rolling backpacks (except grades 6-12). Nothing is permitted to dangle from or be attached to backpacks or lunchboxes at ICA (toys, ornamental items, etc..).

Independence Classical Academy Crest Embroidery

If students would like to purchase items with the ICA crest embroidered or screen printed, it must be purchased through the school's provider locally. Our vendor does NOT allow clothing or other items to be brought into the store to be embroidered with our logo. This is cost prohibitive and time consuming, as we are priced for bulk ordering.

Volunteers

Volunteers should abide by the spirit of the uniform policy. Attire is expected to be safe, modest, and not distracting to students and staff. Guidelines for students' garment lengths and other policies are to be followed by volunteers at ICA.

This policy is incorporated into the Family Handbook, and as such, will be acknowledged by ICA families upon registering their child(ren).