

## **Dress Code**

The dress code at Merion Mercy fosters a sense of community pride and helps to maintain a safe, secure, and productive learning environment. A dress code helps promote school pride, self-respect, an awareness of equality among individuals, regardless of economic background, ethnic or cultural differences, or social environment and encourages a focus on academics, not personal style and fashion.

Students are required to wear school uniforms during the normal school day. When in uniform, students must wear it with dignity and respect. Students attending or participating in school liturgies, assemblies, or activities are expected to be in full uniform. When students leave campus for field trips, they will be given dress-code requirements.

Teachers and administrators check for dress code violations and take the appropriate action. Students with repeated violations will be sent to the Assistant Head of School for Student Life.

Students may only wear sneakers if they have written permission from a doctor stating the injury and time period for recovery. Sneakers must be white, black, grey, or navy. No exceptions. Each student should have all uniform and personal articles properly identified with her name.

### *Mask Policy*

All students must wear a cloth mask, preferably a solid color; no mask may contain words or acronyms other than Merion Mercy or MMA. Homemade masks are fine, but they should include no political endorsements or objectionable/offensive imagery and words (see above).

Masks must be at least two-ply (note: many neck gaiters are only one-ply). Masks may be reusable or disposable and they cannot have breathing vents or valves.

### *Winter Uniform*

- The winter uniform consists of the MMA blazer or navy MMA sweater or MMA fleece, plaid kilt, brown Oxford type or Sperry tie shoes, and yellow or white golf shirt.
- Students may wear gray flannel slacks purchased from Flynn O'Hara.
- Students must wear navy tights (with the skirt) and navy MMA sweaters or navy MMA fleece vest. Note: Tights are not required for the 2020-21 school year.
- Brown, unpatterned shoes with laces and a tie must be worn. The shoes must have a full back and should not have heels higher than one inch. A brown leather Oxford, a brown Sperry, or brown suede buck style shoe is recommended. Moccasins, boots, and sneakers are prohibited.

### *Fall/Spring Uniform*

- The fall/spring uniform consists of the khaki skirt and a yellow or white golf shirt.
- If a tee shirt is worn under the school shirt, it must be all white and not show below the sleeve hem.

- The school sweater or blazer may also be worn. Note: Blazers will rarely be worn for the 2020-21 school year, except for occasional class programs.
- Brown, unpatterned shoes with laces and a tie must be worn. The shoes must have a full back and should not have heels higher than one inch. A brown leather Oxford, a brown Sperry, or brown suede buck style shoe is recommended. Moccasins, boots, and sneakers are prohibited.
- Socks with cuffs must be worn with shoes.

### **Modifications to the 2020-21 Dress Code:**

The following modifications have been made to the 2020-21 dress code to increase comfort, convenience, and alignment with best practices for health and safety during a pandemic:

- To ensure cleanliness, it is recommended that the uniform and its pieces be laundered daily, if worn to school for place-based learning.
- We encourage students to use the MMA uniform sweater or MMA uniform fleece as a cover-up, but we will also permit sweatshirts instead. Sweatshirts should be of a kind that displays a Merion logo (i.e., school spirit wear) or the name/insignia of a college that a senior is interested in attending.
- Jackets/coats are acceptable if the weather calls for it. These items will be carried with the girls along with their backpacks to each location throughout a place-based day, given the exclusion of lockers.
- Hats may be worn outdoors.
- If a student is joining a class remotely from home—for whatever reason—she does not need to be in uniform for virtual instruction. However, her casual attire should be suitable and appropriate for on-camera appearances.
- Fridays (aka Merion Connect Days) will be casual dress-down days, but attire should be suitable and appropriate for class gatherings online during virtual instruction.
- To reduce the number of people who need to get changed for sports practices and competitions after school, given a limited availability of private facilities that are socially-distanced, we are temporarily allowing athletes to wear alternatives to their uniform on days that entail activities post-dismissal.
  - If a student has a game or practice after school, she must wear the proper sports uniform for the duration of that activity.
  - During the academic periods earlier that same day, athletes are permitted to wear sweatpants, appropriate length shorts, appropriate sport leggings, or jeans; no ripped pants, pajama pants, or sloppy clothing.
  - Sneakers or other closed-toe shoes must be worn; no slippers, flip-flops, or slides.