



MORAVIAN ACADEMY



Merle-Smith Campus - Dress Code and Personal Appearance Guidelines: Arrive with Intention

What does it mean to arrive at school with intention? We are a community of learners. Moravian Academy understands that clothing choice is a personal matter and, thus, creates room for student choice. As a community rooted in the Moravian tradition, we encourage students to choose clothing that is respectful to themselves and others and conducive to learning. In the end, be present, be prepared.

The Essence of the Dress Code:

Students should arrive to school clothed at least from neck to knee, no gaps, stay clothed neck to knee, no gaps, and depart clothed neck to knee, no gaps.

We understand that orienting bottoms around the knee is not perfect. There are different heights and body types that affect this orientation. A good rule is to keep shorts, dresses, and skirts within 5 inches of the top of the patella or no higher than one's fingertips when arms are dropped to the side or mid-thigh. These areas will constitute the "knee".

Examples of appropriate tops: button-downs with collars, polos, cardigans, sweaters, MA-issued t-shirts (long and short-sleeved), blouses, turtlenecks, dresses, rugby shirts.

Examples of appropriate bottoms: tailored pants, slacks, chinos, khakis, trousers, shorts, skirts, skorts, dresses, jeans.

See below for clarification on the above examples.

Non-Negotiables:

- Attire reflecting violence, sexual, racial or religious insensitivity, or that refers to tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs is not allowed.
- Hats, caps, sunglasses, sweatshirt hoods may not be worn inside the school buildings. Earbuds, headphones, etc. may not be worn while transitioning between classes or inside the school buildings unless a student is studying quietly.
- Any clothing that allows undergarments or midriff to show should not be worn.
- Footwear should be worn at all times, for safety reasons.
- Sleepwear or athletic bottoms, joggers, athletic shorts, sweatpants, yoga pants, leggings, etc., may not be worn.
- Spandex shorts or pants (leggings) may only be worn under shorts, dresses, or skirts of appropriate length.
- T-shirts, long or short-sleeved, should not be worn unless they are Moravian Academy issued.
- Tank tops should not be worn.
- Clothes should not be torn, frayed, unkempt.

We understand that clothing choice is complex, as is the confidence and esteem of each of our students. Thus, if a student appears out of step with the dress code, the school will seek to educate –



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not shame – the student and will address the issue in a discrete and dignified manner. In that event, the following can be expected:

1. If a teacher feels a student's clothing is at odds with the above expectations, the teacher may discretely and appropriately address the student (e.g. at the end of the class period), hand a dress code notice to the student indicating their concern, and/or communicate directly with the administration.
2. The student will go to the Dean of Students' office with the note or the Dean may find the student if no note was given. In the event the Dean is unavailable, the student should go to the main office to speak with a Grade Dean, Dean of Students, or Director.
3. The administrator will review the concern with the student and determine if their clothing is at odds with the above expectations.
4. If the clothing is found to be inappropriate, depending on whether a concern has previously been reported, **the student may be directed to refrain from wearing this piece of clothing again, may be asked to change, may be sent home, and/or their parents may be contacted.**
5. The final decision regarding appropriate/inappropriate clothing rests with the administration.
6. The Grade Deans, Dean of Students, or Director him/herself may initiate this review process.

Formal Dress:

Formal dress must be worn for all-school chapels, picture days, and any other dates deemed necessary by the administration. Formal dress includes:

1. Tops: Collared shirts and dresses: button-up or polo style. Dresses without collars that have appropriate necklines and sleeves that cover the shoulders may be worn.
2. Bottoms: Students may wear tailored slacks, chinos or cargo/Bermuda-style shorts, skirts and dresses. No jeans/denim.
3. Formal additions must include one of the following: tie, scarf, blazer, cardigan, shawl.

Additionally - The administration may allow students to remove items in section 3 after the event has concluded; however, it is at their discretion.

School Dances:

We recognize that students may wish to wear clothing to a school dance that is different from that which is worn during a school day. Students are expected to acknowledge through their sensible clothing choices that a school dance is a school event and, thus, there are still parameters. The Administrator present at the school dance has the responsibility and authority to use reasoned judgment to determine if the clothing being worn is at odds with generally accepted norms of good taste.



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PE Attire

Students are not required to wear a PE uniform for physical education classes. However, they must change into appropriate athletic clothes: shorts and T-shirt in warm weather, sweat clothes in cool weather, athletic socks, and sneakers. Just removing shoes and ties is NOT sufficient for PE class.