

General Appearance and Dress Code Guidelines

2017-2018 ... Grades 1-12

(Revised on October 16, 2017)

General Appearance Guidelines:

Praise Academy strives to maintain a positive and professional learning environment, which reflects God's call to modesty and purity. Consequently, our appearance should encourage concentrated study and should in no way distract from the learning process. Therefore our appearance code is defined by two specific standards: **modesty** and **professionalism**.

Modesty

First and foremost, a student's appearance should reflect his/her identity as a follower of Christ. Everything we do is an expression of our relationship with God, and in His Word, God makes it clear that we are to be modest and treat our bodies with the utmost respect. Students' appearance should also reflect the Christian value of encouraging the focus on the inner self, not the outer. It is also important to note that what is "in style" is not always in accordance with the standards we seek to reflect. Therefore we have some basic guidelines that we expect students will meet in accordance with these biblical standards. The standards of modesty should be reflected in a student's dress at all times.

Professional

We want students to be comfortable but we also expect Praise Academy student's appearance should meet basic standards. As a learning community committed to excellence, we desire to wear clothes that are appropriate and create this type of learning environment.

It is important to note that these standards do not involve morality; rather they are preferences that Praise Academy seeks to uphold in our school community. This is also in place to prepare our students for their future when they may have various appearance codes at their places of employment or other venues.

If a student or parent has a question of whether a specific garment or style is appropriate, the time to check is before wearing it. Appearance standards related to modesty always apply when students are on campus or at any school activity, unless otherwise specified.

Since students purchase their clothing and personal belongings as a part of the family unit, and prepare for school at home, it is Praise Academy's desire to partner with parents to give proper guidance on clothing choices. We would much prefer appropriate clothing and appearance decisions be handled at home to ensure compliance with Praise Academy standards.

Each student will be held responsible for his/her appearance. Instances of deviation from established standards will be handled on an individual basis. Parents' support for the natural process of consequential decisions by students is greatly appreciated and helpful in the maturation process.

If a student is found to be out of dress code, he/she will be sent to the school office. The use of duct tape, band-aids, or other efforts to cover a dress code violation is not acceptable. If a student is not able to correct the violation quickly so that they can return to class, the parent will be called to bring appropriate attire or be sent home. In the case of piercings that are outside of dress code, the students will be asked to remove the jewelry immediately. Additional instances will be seen as a sign of disrespect and will result in consequences.

Parents are asked to ensure that their children dress in compliance with the school's dress/ hair code each day. The Dean of Discipline is responsible for interpretation and enforcement of these policies.

Dress Code Compliance Standard

General Guidelines:

All clothing should be clean and in good repair. Clothing with holes, patches, or ragged/frayed ends may not be worn. This includes clothes that are designed with frayed/ragged ends or holes.

Clothing should completely cover undergarments and necessary parts of the body at all times (this would include

while sitting or bending over). Girls should take care to ensure tops are not plunging or revealing at the neckline. Boys and girls both should take care to wear modest clothing styles that consistently cover their midsections while standing in a normal posture. Boys should ensure that their pants cover boxers and undergarments at all times.

Any clothing or personal appearance that tends to call undue attention to the individual is not acceptable.

Shirts

Polo shirts (**red, white, navy blue**) are required. Shirts may be purchased from any store as long as they match the standard school uniform colors (**red, white, navy blue**); however, the Praise Academy logo must be placed on the shirt by the uniform store (Uniform Source, www.uniform-source.com) or by Clearly Southern/Jennifer Redden for a fee. Uniform Source will not apply the logo if the shirt is not red, white, or navy blue polo. Uniform source is not responsible for the fit and style choice. Parents may purchase the uniform shirts from Uniform Source as well. Standard Shirt Colors are **red, white, navy blue**.



Shirt **must** fit in an appropriate manner. Shirts that are too tight are not to be worn at any time. This determination may be made by teachers and the principal and a student may be asked to go home and change. **Boys** must have shirts tucked in at all times. **Boys** are required to keep a shirt on at all times, during school hours and school events (athletic practices, etc.)

Girls do not have to tuck in shirts; however, shirts must have an appropriate length ... not too long or short.

Tank tops for either girls or boys are not acceptable school attire. At no time should undergarments be showing, including bra straps. **If a girl wears a tank top under her school polo shirt, it must be the same color as the polo shirt being worn.** Tank tops that are part of the team uniform maybe worn for athletic competition.

Long-sleeved shirts worn under the school uniform polo shirt must be the same color as the polo shirt.

Shirts for Chapel:

Girls may wear the standard polos listed above for chapel.

Boys must wear a white or light blue oxford style shirt (no logo required and may be purchased at any store) with an appropriate tie.

Shorts

Boys and girls in grades 1-12 may wear khaki or navy blue shorts only.



- Shorts must have at least a 7 inch inseam.
- Shorts may be no shorter than three (3") inches above the knee
- Docker - style shorts (Khaki or navy blue) are required
- No cargo short, shorts must have regular pockets
- Note and caution: Many in-style shorts do not meet these requirements.

Shorts DO NOT require a logo. Shorts may be purchased from any store as long as they match the standard school uniform colors (**khaki or navy blue**) and they meet the guidelines; tailored with proper hem, No fraying or torn

look; Shorts are to have pleated or flat front with standard pockets. Shorts must be worn at the hip or above at all times. At no time should any undergarments be visible. Parents may purchase the uniform shorts from Uniform Source as well. Standard short colors are **navy blue or khaki**.

Shorts for Chapel:

Boys ... **NO SHORTS on chapel day**

Girls ... **NO SHORTS on chapel day**

Capris (Girls Only)

Girls in grades 1-12 may wear khaki or navy blue capris only.

Plain Docker – style capris (**Khaki or navy blue**) are required. **Capris DO NOT require a logo.** Capris may be purchased from any store as long as they match the standard school uniform colors (**khaki or navy blue**) and the guidelines; tailored with proper hem, No fraying or torn look; no carpenters, cargos, rivets, or tight fitting capris. Capris are to have pleated or flat front. Capris must be worn at the hip or above at all times. At no time should any undergarments be visible. **No capris are allowed on chapel day.**

Pants

Docker – style pants (**Khaki or navy blue**) are required. **Pants DO NOT require a logo.** Pants may be purchased from any store as long as they match the standard school uniform colors (**khaki or navy blue**) and the guidelines; tailored with proper hem, No fraying or torn look; no carpenters, cargos, rivets, or tight fitting pants. Pants are to have pleated or flat front. Pants must be worn at the hip or above at all times. At no time should any undergarments be visible. Parents may purchase the uniform pants from Uniform Source as well.

Standard pant colors are **navy blue or khaki**. **There may be a slight color differences in the khaki colors. See acceptable colors below.**

Suggested vendors: Uniform Source; Old Navy; Gap; Sears; Walmart; or any store ... we recommend that you purchase school uniform pants from vendors that sale school uniforms.

Pants **must** fit in an appropriate manner. Pants are required to fit properly, no oversized pants, no baggy, “skinny” pants or **jeggings**. Pants must be worn at the proper place on the waist. Pants may not be constructed of a knit fabric. They must have pockets and should not be constructed in an overall style that is too tight or body shape revealing. Under no circumstances are leggings considered pants. Pants that are too tight are not to be worn at any time. This determination may be made by teachers or the principal and a student may be asked to go home and change.

Pants for Chapel:

Boys are required to wear the regular uniform pants as stated above ... **NO SHORTS on chapel day.**

Girls are **not** allowed to wear pants on chapel day. However, if it is 40 degrees or below on the morning of chapel day, girls may wear school uniform pants. Temperature will be determined by the low listed on the following website <http://www.weather.com/weather/today/30127> .

Skirts/Jumpers

Khaki, navy blue or plaid skirts or jumpers are required on chapel day. Pleated, straight, or A-line skirts required. **Skirts may be no shorter than two (2”) inches above the knee.** Skirts must be worn at the hip or above at all times. At no time should any undergarments be visible. (The measurement is done with student in a kneeling position). Parents are required to make sure their child’s skirts and dresses meet these guidelines. Skirts and jumpers may be purchased from any store as long as they match the standard school uniform colors (**khaki, navy blue, plaid**). **See acceptable colors below.**



(Jumpers for 1st-6th grade)

All cheerleaders will be required to wear leggings under their cheer skirts to school as part of their uniform on game days.

Belts

Boys: Belts are required for boys in grades 1-12 and must be modest. Belts should not be frayed and no belts with spikes. **Girls are not required to wear belts.**

Shoes

Boys and Girls in grades 1-4 that do not know how to tie their shoes should wear shoes with Velcro strap style shoes. Closed shoes or closed-toe sandals are to be worn. Please purchase shoes that do not mark the floor.

The following shoes are not permitted: “heelys”, open toe, flip-flops, athletic sandals, any shoes without a back. We suggest students wear regular tennis shoes at all times for their safety

Regular non-marking Tennis shoes must be worn for play on the gym floor

Boys and Girls in grades 5-12: Casual/Dress shoes, Sandals with a strap in back, or standard tennis shoes are required. No radical shoe styles. Please purchase shoes that do not mark the floor.

The following shoes are not permitted: flip-flops, athletic sandals, “house shoes”, or any shoes without a back (sandals with a strap in back are permitted). We suggest students wear regular tennis shoes at all times for their safety.

Regular non-marking Tennis shoes must be worn for play on the gym floor

Socks/Tights (Grades 1-12)

Solid navy, red, khaki, black or white crew or knee socks must be worn when wearing shorts. Multicolored socks are only allowed with pants. Girls may wear **tights** of solid colors; navy, black, white, red, khaki. Socks are optional for girls. No neon socks or neon tights allowed.

Leggings (Grades 1-12)

Leggings, jeggings and all “legging-type pants” are not allowed on campus. Leggings may not be worn under skirts. This includes all casual days, senior dress privileges, field trips, or any other special days.

Outerwear: Sweaters, Vests, Jackets, Coats, Hats, Sweatshirts (with or without hoods)

What can be worn in the classroom and chapel? (Hoods may not be worn inside)

Jackets, coats, sweaters, sweatshirts must be removed upon entry to the classroom and chapel

The only exceptions are:

1. Praise Academy sweatshirts, sweaters, and jackets, which have the solid school colors or school logos.
2. Solid color (red, white, black, navy blue, khaki, maroon, gold) sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts.

Note: Small brand name logos may be on the sweaters, jackets, and sweaters.

What can be worn outside the classroom and chapel?

Any jacket, coat, sweater, sweatshirt of any color or logo; however, they must be modest and of good taste as determined by the administration.

No sweaters or jackets around the waist. No trench coats are allowed. Sunglasses may be worn outside.

Hats

No hats or bandanas on campus. Praise Academy baseball hats may be worn outside of buildings. Appropriate hats may be worn to outside school events.

Personal Grooming and Appearance

Boys:

- No pierced jewelry is allowed for boys on campus or at school-related functions. At the initial enrollment interview students must make administration aware of any body piercing.
- Tattoos (real or fake) are not allowed. At the initial enrollment interview students must make administration aware of any tattoos. Tattoos of any nature cannot be exposed on campus or at school-related functions.
- Hair shall be neat and well-groomed of a conservative style. With hair combed down, hair must be out of the eyes, off the collar, and no longer than to the middle of the ear with hair combed down. No ponytails, shaved areas, no shaved lines or designs, no hair braids, etc.
- Two-tone natural colors are allowed. No more than two colors are allowed. No unnatural hair colors are allowed; i.e., blue, pink, or neon colors.
- No beards or mustaches are permitted. Facial hair must be clean shaven each day.
- Sideburns are allowed to the middle of the ear.

Girls:

- Pierced jewelry for girls is limited to earrings with a maximum of 2 per ear. At the initial enrollment interview students must make administration aware of any body piercing.
- Tattoos (real or fake) are not allowed. At the initial enrollment interview students must make administration aware of any tattoos. Tattoos of any nature cannot be exposed on campus or at school-related functions.
- Two-tone natural colors are allowed. No more than two colors are allowed. No unnatural hair colors are allowed; i.e., blue, pink, or neon colors, etc.
- No shaved areas allowed
- No black or dark fingernail polish or lipstick
- Makeup should appear natural. No radical makeup colors are allowed.

PE Uniforms (attire) for Grades 7-12

PE shirts and shorts may be purchased from any store. Students may wear Praise Academy **shirts**; i.e., any shirt from any sport or club they have participated in and it was issued by PA, Christian t-shirts, team shirts (Braves, Falcons, college teams, etc.), Nike, Under Armour, Abercrombie, etc. No inappropriate shirts in the opinion of the administration.

PE Shorts may be no shorter than three (3") inches above the knee. PE short may be of any basic color.

Non-marking tennis shoes must be worn during PE and on gym floor.

PE uniforms may be purchased from Uniform-Source (770-919-9967). <http://www.uniform-source.com>.



These types of shorts are not allowed

Casual Dress Days

Praise Academy will have a paid casual day every Friday of each month (except the last Friday of each month). The last Friday of each month is a free casual day. Paid casual day cost is \$2.00 per student or \$5.00 per family. Participation is voluntary for paid casual days. However, if students do not participate, they must dress according to the standard dress code.

Students may wear modest blue jeans (no holes, tears, frays, tatters, and fit properly), shirts, dresses, modest casual

shirts (no shirts that advertise inappropriate groups, organizations, language, or behavior). Students may wear Praise Academy shirts, Christian t-shirts, team shirts (Braves, Falcons, college teams, etc.), Nike, Under Armour, Abercrombie, etc. However, no shirts that is inappropriate in the opinion of the administration. Warm up pants or jogging pants are not allowed.

Students may have one casual day per year for their birthday.

Seniors have other special dress days, which will be determined by the school administration.