



MERIT ACADEMY DRESS CODE POLICY

Created and updated: 8/2025

PURPOSE OF UNIFORMS

There is a strong correlation between student appearance and perception of excellence. Additional reasons for the uniform dress code include:

- Foster a distinct and positive Merit Academy appearance
- Decrease distractions
- Increase commitment to MA's core values and beliefs.
- Discourage divisiveness or cliques and encourage core cohesion and respect
- Increase student parity



THE IMPORTANCE OF ENFORCING A UNIFORM POLICY

- Teaching our students to adhere to the rules, set by their authority, prepares them for the workforce.
- While we encourage students to ask “why” they are being asked to follow certain rules; we do ask that they follow these rules and expectations while asking “why”. They will be expected to follow the rules even if they disagree with the “why”.
- Allowing students to break and bend rules fosters a sense of entitlement and disrespect of authority. Something we do not tolerate at Merit Academy.



OVERALL UNIFORM GUIDELINES

These can be found at www.merit.academy under the families and then uniform tab

Additions:*

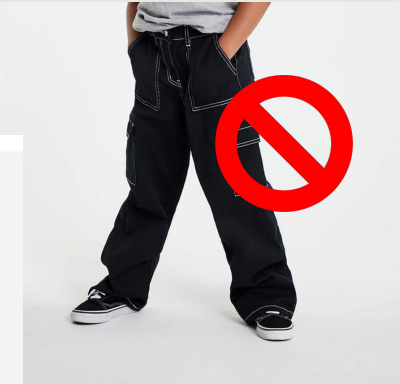
- ONLY SOR can wear black tops
- Dressy, business, cargo pants are allowed.
- Friday's tops must be a uniform style.
- 11th and 12th grades have the option to dress in business casual.

** Please read the following slides carefully for clarification on these additions*

CARGO CLARIFICATION: CARGO MUST BE “DRESSY” OR BUSINESS LIKE.

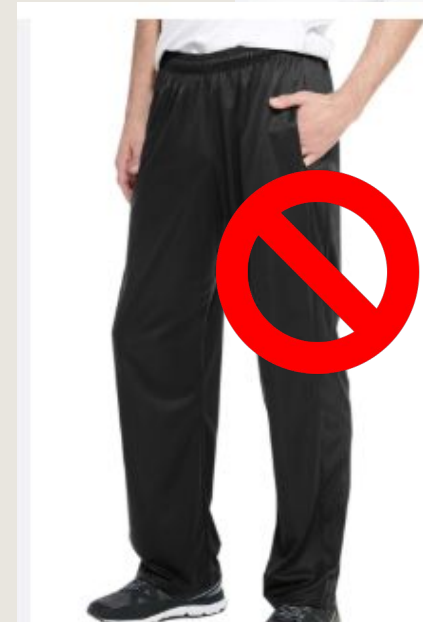
Do Wear:

- dressy
- Straight leg
- fitted waist, baggy leg
- Khaki, black or navy



Don't Wear:

- Baggy Waist
- Skintight
- distressed pants
- sweatpants
- athletic pants



Example approved uniform clothing (not all inclusive, but for ideas):



EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE UNIFORMS

These are found on the Merit Academy website

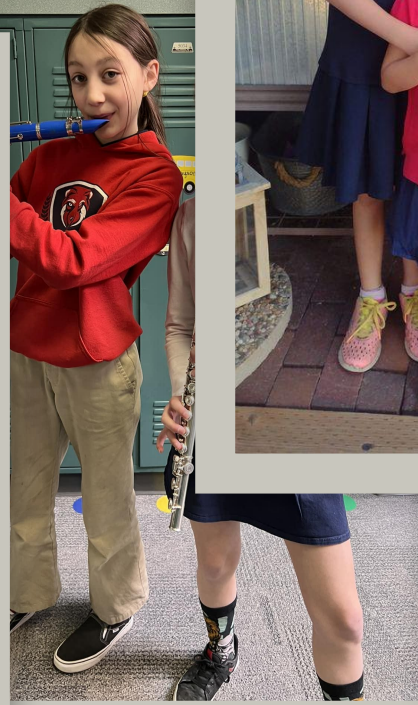
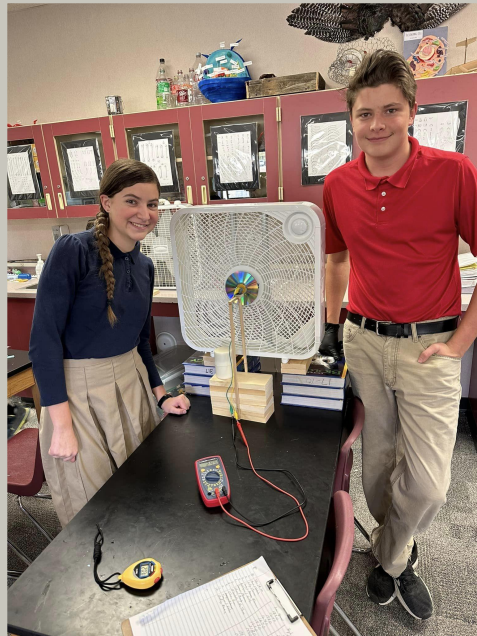


New quarter zip approved this year.

ALL students can wear the navy and SOR can wear black.



SOME EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE UNIFORMS



Merit Academy HOODIES

Approved IN class

- Approved Merit Hoodie in Red, White or Blue for ALL students.
- Black Merit Academy hoodies and polos are for SOR only (9th-12th grade)
- Merit ¼ zip with merit logo
- The hoodies pictured are the only hoodies approved to wear.



- EVERY Friday is “house color day”- **THIS IS NOT A FREE DRESS DAY!**
- Your top must still be uniform style approved* but can be the color of your house

FRIDAY- HOUSE DAY COLOR



Approved Uniform Style tops* in the following colors

- Elk- Green
- Wolf- Yellow
- Big Horn- Purple
- Bobcat- Orange
- Falcon- Blue

*See the next slide for specifications



FRIDAY- HOUSE DAY COLOR CONT.

- YOUR SHIRT MUST BE A UNIFORM APPROVED STYLE SHIRT; *POLOS WITH OR WITHOUT HOUSE LOGO, COLLARED BUTTON DOWN, FINE KNIT SWEATERS, SWEATER VEST OR CARDIGAN OVER COLLARED SHIRT.*
- IF YOU CHOOSE TO WEAR A HOODIE INSIDE THE BUILDING, IT MUST BE THE MERIT UNIFORM APPROVED HOODIE. HOUSE COLORED HOODIES ARE **NOT** APPROVED.
- ALL BOTTOMS MUST STILL BE UNIFORM. **NO RIPPED JEANS, LEGGINGS AS PANTS, SWEATPANTS, ALL SHORTS/ SKIRTS ARE FINGERTIP LENGTH.**
- JEANS, KHAKIS, KHAKI/JEAN/NAVY SHORTS, BUSINESS CARGO ARE ALL ACCEPTABLE
- YOU CAN ALSO CHOOSE TO WEAR A TYPICAL MERIT UNIFORM AS WELL

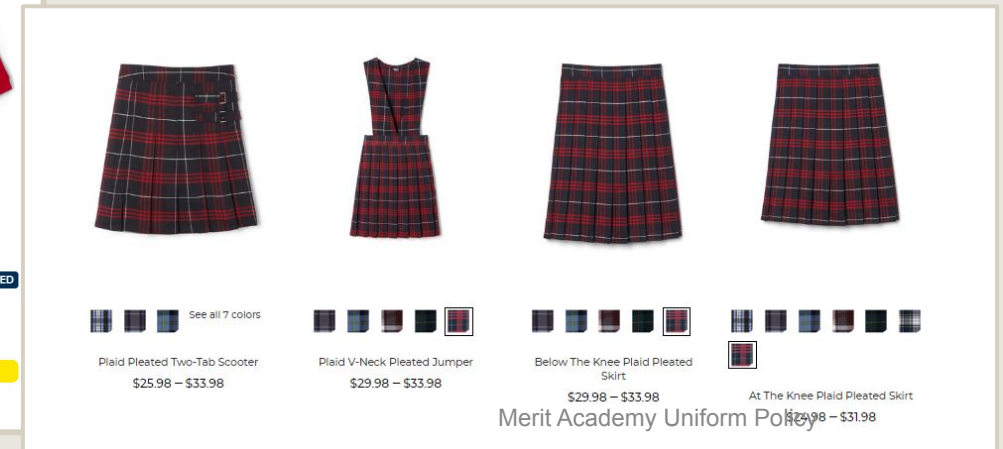
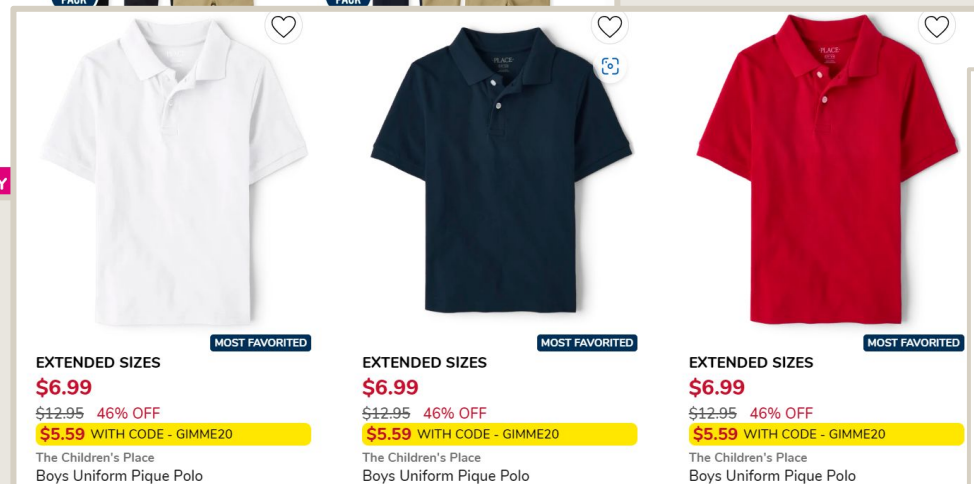
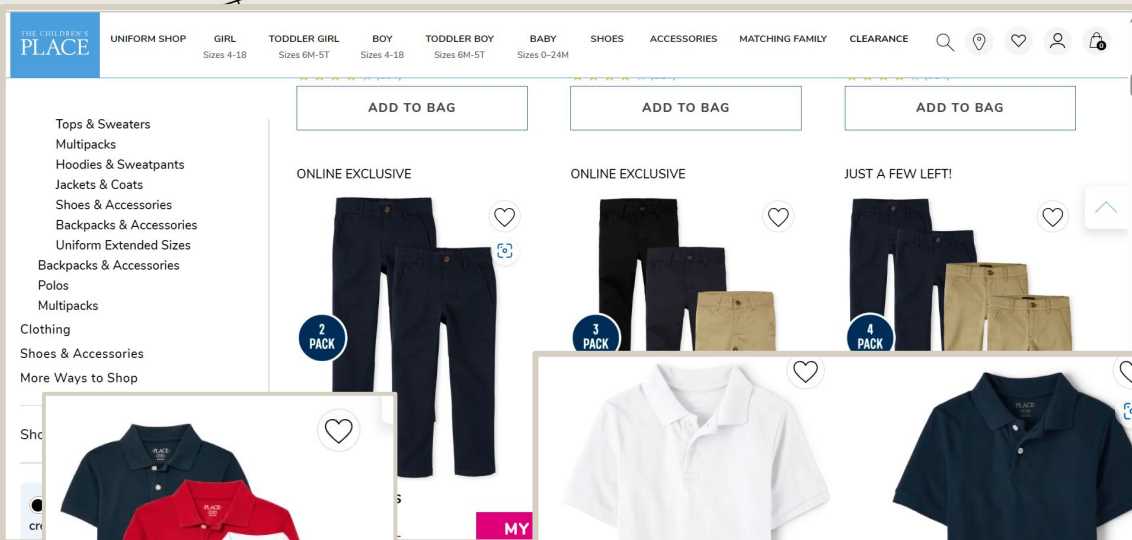


WHERE TO BUY UNIFORMS & UNIFORM EXCHANGE

We know that buying uniforms can become costly, especially for those with multiple children in school. If you are having trouble purchasing uniforms, please reach out to our admin as we may have resources available to you.

HERE ARE SOME GREAT PLACES TO ORDER UNIFORMS

- Amazon for quickest shipping
- Children's place/ Old Navy for lower cost
- French toast for the plaid girls' uniforms
- Goodwill for the LOWEST price!



UPPERCLASSMEN (11TH & 12TH GRADES)

Business Casual Dress Guidelines

Do's:

- dress pants
- Skirts below the knee
- Black jeans
- Collared dress shirt and tie
- Dress blouse
- Dress shoes
- Blazers/ jackets
- Fine-knit sweaters that go over button-down shirts



Don't:

- NO Athletic wear (sweats or leggings)
- NO shorts
- NO loose cargo or light denim
- NO beachwear: midriff-bearing, backless, flip flops
- NO holes, rips or tears in pants or tops
- NO hats or hoodies
- NO exposed shoulders
- NO skin-tight or revealing clothing

REVIEW IN PICTURES- SCHOOL OF GRAMMAR AND LOGIC

MERIT ACADEMY DRESS CODE

Student Starter Pack



Merit Academy School of Grammar Dress Code



FRIDAYS





2025

Merit Academy Uniform Policy

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REVIEW IN PICTURES- SCHOOL OF RHETORIC- 9TH & 10TH



REVIEW IN PICTURES- SCHOOL OF RHETORIC- 11TH & 12TH



Merit Academy School of Rhetoric Dress Code – 11th & 12th



FAQ'S

“We have a couple correct color polos but they have a little logo at the top of the shirt, is that ok?”

- Yes! A small logo in the top corner of the shirt is acceptable. It should not be larger than a typical logo. Examples: the UA from Under Armour shirts, the little GAP bear, the Ralph Lauren Polo horse are all ok!

“What can my child wear for PE? Can they change?”

- Students in SOL/SOR will need to follow the Merit Academy approved PE Uniform. Students can wear plain navy or red t-shirt with. No tank-tops or cropped tops allowed. Please see approved PE shirt for purchase:
<https://bsnteamssports.com/shop/wZbaqYYr5a/myteamshop/000001>

“I found a lot of cool Merit designs off a First Place Spirit Wear website. Can my child wear those?”

- NO, they can NOT wear them in class. Only the APPROVED hoodie designs are allowed to be worn in class. Hoods must be worn down/ off while in the building.
- please see the previous slide for pictures of approved hoodies

FAQ'S- PT2

“My student said they can wear whatever they want on Friday as long as it’s the color of their house?”

- **NO**- this is not the case. Students need to wear UNIFORM tops and bottoms. The uniform tops can be their house color in a uniform style.
- SOL/R can wear their house t-shirts on Fridays. SOG will have designated days to wear house tshirts.

“I can’t find a top in my student’s house color, so can they wear a color that is close?”

- Not really. The only variance we have on colors is “light and dark”.
Examples: Light/dark purple are ok for Big Horn house, but fuchsia/ pink is not. Light/ Dark blue is ok for Falcon house, but teal is not.

“My daughter wants to wear skirts and my son wants to wear shorts? Are they approved?”

- Yes. All skirts and shorts need to be no shorter than 1 inch above the knee.

FAQ'S- 3

“Will there ever be ‘dress down’ or ‘out of uniform days’.”

- While this doesn't happen often, it doesn't happen occasionally. Be on the lookout for teacher communication for these fun days!

What type of jeans/ khakis can my students wear?

- The policy does say “darker jeans” but also goes on to say that solid blue and black denim is acceptable. If they are light blue *denim*, they are acceptable. Light any other color denim– not acceptable.
- **Jeans and Khakis** that are baggy in the legs and are fitted in the waist are also allowed
- Baggy CARGO pants (pockets on the sides) are not allowed. Cargo pants must be fitted.

“What is the policy on leggings?”

- Saying that students cannot wear leggings is not entirely accurate.
- They cannot wear leggings as pants.
- **Leggings must be worn under skirts or dresses only!**
- Leggings can be any pattern or color. This is where your girls can show their creativity.

FAQ'S- 4

“My student got a rip in their jeans while they were at school! Should I send a pair of new jeans in case this happens again?”

- Yes, you can do this but it is not necessary as we have a uniform closet where the kids can borrow a pair of pants without rips or holes.

“What shoes can my students wear?”

- This one is answered better by what can the NOT wear:
 - No wheels in shoes
 - No heels more than 2”
 - No flip flops
 - No snow boots or rain boots in the classroom

Still have questions?

- Email your dean of your school.



THANK YOU

- The Merit Staff and Board

www.merit.academy