

# DRESS CODE

UPDATED 04/24

## PHILOSOPHY

Rockbridge Academy seeks to glorify God in both the character and culture of the school. The manner of dress and personal grooming of students should reflect the Christian, classical, and scholarly image of Rockbridge Academy. The expectation is cheerful and consistent compliance with uniforms from the parents and students, and correspondingly cheerful and consistent enforcement by the school staff.

The Dress Code Policy is an expression of the following values: unity, simplicity, order, and modesty. Consistently following the code contributes to the learning atmosphere by lessening distraction. The uniform, by design, is non-conspicuous and free of trends that are associated with social status. Compliance with the code is a daily challenge to students to place others before themselves.

## DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

### Apparel

- Clothing must be clean and without holes, tears, or excessive fraying.
- Fleeces must be worn with a collared, tucked-in shirt underneath.
- Shirts are to be tucked in at all times.
- Shoes designed with laces are to be worn with laces that match the shoe color.
- Student attire should reflect respectful conformity with their biological gender.

### Hair

- All students must keep their hair neatly groomed and conservatively styled.
- Hair should not cover the eyes. Hair for boys should not touch the ears or collar.
- Hair accessories for girls should be simple and match uniform colors.
- Hair may not have any dye or color in the Grammar School. Dyed hair will be permitted in the Upper School if it is not significantly different from the student's natural hair color.
- Young men should be clean shaven and may not have visible facial hair.

### Make-up, Nail Polish, and Tattoos

- Make-up is not permitted in the Grammar School. Make-up applied with a natural look is permitted for Upper School girls.
- Fingernails must be clean and short.
- Girls may wear nail polish. Only clear nail polish is permitted in the Grammar School. Nail polish in neutral colors is permitted in the Upper School.
- Tattoos of any kind are not permitted.

### Jewelry

- Girls may wear one bracelet, one watch, one necklace, and one set of small earrings (no larger than a nickel) only in the lobes of their ears. Upper School girls may wear a second set of studs in the lobes of their ears.
- Boys may wear one wrist bracelet, one necklace, and one watch.
- Jewelry in any other pierced body part is not permitted.
- A watch may be worn if it does not distract or make noise. Watches with internet connection/texting capabilities are not allowed.

### Under/Outerwear

- Undershirts that show must be solid white.

- Only approved uniform fleece or sweaters may be worn in the classroom on top of a uniform shirt. Sweatshirts are not permitted.

### **Special Dress Days**

**Grammar School students** have a field trip uniform (see uniform grid below) that may be worn every day, but must be worn every Monday for Monday Morning Catechism, for assemblies, and on field trips.

**Upper School students** have a dress uniform (see uniform grid below) that may be worn any day, but must be worn every Monday, for assemblies, and any day in which the student gives an oral presentation. **On days when dress uniform is required, it must be worn for the entire day.**

On occasion, when the uniform requirement is suspended (i.e., spirit days, etc.) or at school events held outside of the school day, the spirit of the dress code is still in effect; student appearance is expected to be neat and modest.

### **Compliance**

**Grammar School:** In the event of a dress code infraction, parents will be emailed, and students will be expected to have the issue corrected by the following day.

**Upper School:** Infractions that can be fixed by the student on the spot, i.e. untucked shirt, will be addressed by staff before the student enters the classroom. For all other cases, the student will be asked to go to the upper school office to receive a uniform slip to show teachers throughout the day (to avoid having to go to the office more than once). Parents will be notified, and repeat offenders will be asked to attend silent lunch.

Where questions arise, the administration reserves the right to make a final determination regarding dress code compliance.

## **UNIFORM PURCHASE**

The sole vendor is Lands' End, and the school number is 900030701. Where possible, multiple styles have been offered allowing for preference of long vs. short sleeves or fabric. Rockbridge Academy also supports the [Rockbridge Uniform Swap](#), an online system for selling and buying used uniform pieces.

### **Smart Buyers' Guide:**

Lands' End has frequent promotional sales of up to 40% off of uniform items. Plan your shopping ahead of time to make best use of these discounts. In most cases, a sale notification will come directly to the parent email, if used for shopping with Lands' End, or the sale will be announced in the Rockbridge Essentials. Lands' End will honor the sale price for items purchased in the 14 days before the sale begins if the purchaser calls and requests a refund.

As the student passes from the Grammar to the Dialectic stage and from Dialectic to the Rhetoric stage, there are some significant changes in the dress code. Parents should familiarize themselves with the upcoming uniform changes and may choose to modify purchasing behavior to minimize the overall cost. Before purchasing uniform items, parents of students in Grades 5-6 should consider purchasing minimal quantities of the following items and/or purchasing from the Uniform Swap or seek hand-me-downs as these items are not worn in the Upper School:

- Red polo or white Peter Pan polo
- Plaid Jumper, Girls' Khaki Skort, Girls' Khaki Pants, Boys' Khaki Shorts

- Red Fleece and Sweater for boys and girls

Parents of 8th and 9th graders should note that a new dress uniform is required when students enter 10th grade. Most of the items from the Dialectic dress uniform may be worn for daily wear in the Rhetoric stage. Only the Dialectic tie is retired.

Items that are worn across the entire school are the red knit vest and plaid skirt for all girls, khaki pants and black polo and black belt for all boys.

## Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Girls

	Field Trip Uniform (required)	Daily Uniform (optional)
Bottom	Plaid jumper or plaid skirt <i>(the plaid skirt is available in size 6 and up)</i> <i>Black bicycle shorts required under skirt and jumper.</i>	Dress uniform items Khaki skort or khaki elastic waist pull on pants
SKIRT LENGTH: Please check that skirt length is no more than <b>1"</b> above the knee.		
Top	White Peter Pan collared polo w/logo Red polos may be worn for field trips at the teacher's request	Dress uniform items Red polo w/ logo
Warmth	Red zip up sweater w/ logo, or Red zip up fleece w/ logo, and/or Red knit vest w/logo	Dress uniform items The red vest may be worn with the white top only.
Socks	Black or white socks that cover the ankle, or Black or gray tights, or Black ankle-length knit leggings	
Shoes	Predominantly white or black sneakers without any patterns. Sneakers must close with either Velcro, "no-tie" laces, or runner's laces with a cord toggle. No lights, characters, or high top shoes are permitted.	

## Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Boys

	Field Trip Uniform (required)	Daily Uniform (optional)
Bottom	Khaki elastic waist pull on pants or khaki elastic waist pull on shorts. Shorts may only be worn in September, October, April and May. Junior Kindergarten students will not wear a belt. Kindergarten students may wear a tan Velcro belt after Christmas.	
Top	Red polo w/logo	Red or black polo w/ logo
Warmth	Red zip up sweater w/ logo, or Red zip up fleece w/ logo	Dress uniform items
Socks	Black or white socks that cover the ankle and match the shoes.	
Shoes	Predominantly white or black sneakers without any patterns. Sneakers must close with either Velcro, "no-tie" laces, or runner's laces with a cord toggle. No lights, characters, or high top shoes are permitted.	

## Grammar Girls, Grades 1-6

	Field Trip Uniform (required)	Daily Uniform (optional)
Bottom	Plaid jumper or plaid skirt <i>Black bicycle shorts required under skirt and jumper.</i>	Dress uniform items Khaki skort or khaki pants w/black belt
<i>SKIRT LENGTH: Please check that skirt length is no more than 1" above the knee.</i>		
Top	White Peter Pan collared polo w/logo Red polos may be worn for field trips at the teacher's request  Students in RAS or Orchestra require a black polo w/logo for performances.	Dress uniform items Red polo w/ logo
Warmth	Red zip up sweater w/ logo, or Red zip up fleece w/ logo, and/or Red knit vest w/logo	Dress uniform items The red vest may be worn with a white top only.
Socks	Black or white socks that cover the ankle, or Black or gray tights, or Black ankle-length knit leggings	
Shoes	Predominantly white or black sneakers without any patterns. No lights, characters, or high top shoes are permitted. Black Mary Janes are optional except on PE days.	

## Grammar Boys, Grades 1-6

	Field Trip Uniform (required)	Daily Uniform (optional)
Bottom	Khaki pants with black belt	Dress uniform item Khaki shorts with black belt (September - October and April - May)
Top	Red polo w/logo  Students in RAS or Orchestra require a black polo w/logo for performances.	Red or black polo w/ logo
Warmth	Red zip up sweater w/ logo, or Red zip up fleece w/ logo	Same
Socks	Black or white socks that cover the ankle and match the shoes.	
Shoes	Predominantly white or black sneakers without any patterns No lights, characters, or high top shoes are permitted.	

## Dialectic Ladies

	Dress Uniform (required)	Daily Uniform (optional)
Bottom	Plaid skirt <i>Black bicycle shorts required under skirt.</i>	
<i>SKIRT LENGTH: Please check that skirt length is no more than 1" above the knee. If a skirt is more than 1" above the knee, please order an extended length skirt by calling LandsEnd or choose the other style. Lands' End carries the plaid skirt in girls and women's sizes. Even if the waist on the girl's size fits dialectic young ladies, the length will likely b insufficient. Please order women's sizes.</i>		
Top	White button-down Oxford shirt, logo optional  Students in Orchestra require a black polo for performances.	Black or white polo w/ logo White mock turtleneck w/ logo
Warmth	Black zip up or V-neck sweater w/logo, and/or Red knit vest w/logo	Dress uniform items Black zip up fleece w/logo The red vest may be worn with a white top.
Socks	Solid black or gray tights, or skin colored hose, solid white or black no-show, ankle or crew socks or white knee socks, or bare legs	Dress uniform items Solid black ankle-length knit leggings with solid white or black no-show, ankle, or crew socks
Shoes	Black solid color closed toe dress shoes (Mary Jane, Oxford, and ballet flat styles are also permitted.)	Predominantly white or black sneakers without any patterns No boots, slip-ons, platforms, open toes, backless, clog-style, sandals, or high top shoes are permitted.

## Dialectic Gentlemen

	Dress Uniform (required)	Daily Uniform (optional)
Bottom	Khaki pants with solid black belt	
Top	White button-down, long-sleeved Oxford shirt, logo optional Red tie  Students in Orchestra require a black polo for performances.	Black or white polo w/ logo
Warmth	Black zip up or V-neck sweater w/logo	Dress uniform items Black ¾ or full zip fleece w/logo
Socks	Solid black crew socks	
Shoes	Black solid color, leather lace-up dress shoes or loafers	Dress uniform items Predominantly black sneakers without any patterns No boots, slip-ons, platforms, open toes, backless, clog-style, sandals, or high top shoes are permitted.

## Rhetoric Ladies

	Dress Uniform (required)	Daily Uniform (optional)
Bottom	Gray skirt (2 styles available) <i>Black bicycle shorts required under skirt</i>	Dress uniform items Plaid skirt <i>Black bicycle shorts required under skirt.</i>
<b>SKIRT LENGTH:</b> Please check that skirt length is no more than <b>1"</b> above the knee. If a skirt is more than 1" above the knee, please order an extended length skirt by calling LandsEnd or choose the other style.		
Top	White button-down oxford shirt, logo optional  Students in Orchestra require a black polo for performances.	Black or white polo w/ logo. White mock turtleneck w/ logo
Warmth	Navy Blue Women's Blazer Optional red knit vest w/logo may be worn with the blazer.	Black Zip Up or V-Neck Sweater, or black full zip fleece w/logo The red vest may be worn with a white top.
Socks	Solid gray tights, or skin colored hose, solid white or black no-show, ankle or crew socks or white knee socks, or bare legs	Dress uniform items Black tights, solid black ankle-length knit leggings,
Shoes	Black or Navy solid-color closed-toe dress shoes (Mary Jane, oxford and ballet flat styles are also permitted)	Dress uniform items. Predominantly white or black sneakers without any patterns. No boots, slip-ons, platforms, open toes, backless, clog-style, sandals or high tops.

## Rhetoric Gentlemen

	Dress Uniform (required)	Daily Uniform (optional)
Bottom	Gray dress pants w/belt to match shoes	Khaki pants w/ black belt
Top	White long-sleeved button-down oxford shirt, logo optional. Navy and red striped tie  Students in Orchestra require a black polo for performances.	Black or white polo w/ logo
Warmth	Navy Blue Mens Blazer	Black Full zip, ¾ Zip, or V-Neck Sweater, or black ¾ zip or full zip fleece w/logo
Socks	Solid dress socks to match pants	Solid black crew socks
Shoes	Black or brown leather lace-up dress shoes or loafers with matching belt	Predominantly white or black sneakers without any patterns. No boots, slip-ons, platforms, open toes, backless, clog-style, sandals or high tops.

## Upper School PE Uniform/ Practice Dress Code for Athletic Teams

The Upper School PE uniform is the same as the Athletics Practice Uniform:

- Any Rockbridge Academy athletics shirt or solid red, black, gray, or white shirts without graphics, and gray or dark colored athletic shorts (not bicycle shorts) or sweats.
- Athletic shoes are not to draw attention to the player - ex. neon green or flamboyant patterns; school colors are preferred.
- All socks must be white or black.
- Students will change for PE or sports practice in the locker rooms.
- Students may never wear cleats in the school building.

## UNIFORM ITEMS RETIRED IN JUNE 2024

Items from the old uniform that will be disallowed after June 2024 include:

- Old plaid jumper, skort and skirt from Dennis Uniform
- Grammar boys will no longer wear the  $\frac{3}{4}$  zip fleece.
- Upper School students will no longer wear the red fleece or polo.
- Upper school girls will no longer wear the black fine gauge knit sweater
- Upper School boys may no longer wear ties from Dennis Uniform