

Uniform and Dress Code

ACTE has a primary objective of developing a "community of learners," dedicated to the highest standards of academics and deportment. As such, a distinctive uniform is a unifying factor within our school community. It is also a visible signature of our school to the larger community, an indicator of our unity and of our pride of purpose. This is one of the most important functions of a uniform: it identifies its wearer as part of a distinctive group with a distinctive purpose. It is a reminder to its wearer of that purpose and of one's responsibility to that group.

The uniform is the basis of a dress code with a "professional," business-like standard. Our students should dress their best, look their best, and do their best. All clothing must be clean, neat, reasonably pressed, and in properly fitting condition. If a child is deemed to be wearing inappropriate attire, the parent will be notified, and a change of clothing may be required for attendance that day. If in doubt about the appropriateness of an article of clothing, check with the school office before purchasing. Good judgment exercised at home will be a learning activity for the child that will help to avoid embarrassment or wasted time at school. Decisions about the appropriateness of apparel may be referred to the Headmaster, whose judgment will be final. The Headmaster may make specific exceptions to the dress code, as demanded by particular religious customs.

If a student insists on rebelling by trying to beat the dress code, it will quickly become obvious to the faculty and Headmaster. Our desire is not to squash students' individuality, but to secure their commitment to a community of learners whose purpose, while at school, is not faddish coolness, or outlandishness, but scholarship and character development. We ask not only for the student's commitment to this concept, but for the parent's as well. The uniform and dress code of ACTE support and reinforce our academic goals. The uniform assists us in staying focused on the true individuality offered by healthy dialogue and the development of the life of the mind for each student.

Other than the dress code requirements for school, there are special requirements for periodic, special events throughout the year, such as the "semi-formal" dress code for concert participation and the all-school awards ceremony. Please see Semi-Formal Event Dress Code for an exact definition of how the Academy defines "semi-formal" attire.

Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus (including the parking lot) during a school day. This means arriving on campus *fully* in uniform and leaving campus *fully* in uniform (correct shoes, shirts tucked in, etc.). Students may only change out of uniform after school with teacher/coach permission to participate in an approved curricular or extracurricular activity that requires an immediate change in dress.

Boy's Uniform and Dress Code:

Boy's Shirts

- a. Short or Long sleeve with school logo
- b. Color: White, Baby Blue
- c. Fit: Shirt must always remain tucked in
- d. Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Anton Uniforms

Boy's Pants

- a. Color: Navy Blue
- b. Style: Flat pleated front dress pants, no jeans or cargo pants, with belt loops and a solid, dark belt
- c. Fit: Pants should reach the shoe but not drag on the ground. No excessively baggy or tight-fitting pants will be permitted. Pants should be worn at the waist with no undergarments visible. The slacks should have belt loops and a solid, dark belt should be used.
- d. Vendor: Any as long as pants are indistinguishable from the approved vendor pants

Boy's Shorts

- a. Color: Navy blue
- b. Style: Flat or pleated front walking shorts. Shorts should fall mid-thigh and not be longer than the knee, with belt loops and a solid dark belt
- c. Fit: No excessively-baggy or tight-fitting shorts will be permitted. Shorts should be worn at the waist with no undergarments visible. The shorts should have belt loops and a solid, dark belt should be used
- d. Vendor: Any as long as the shorts are indistinguishable from the approved vendor

Boy's Shoes

- a. Color: The shoes should be solid white, or solid black
- b. No colors on the shoes, heels or soles
- c. No neon or bright colored shoe laces (black shoes must have black laces and white shoes must have white laces)
- d. Style: low-top athletic (tennis, Keds) shoes.

Socks

- a. Color: solid black, blue or white without visible logos or designs
- b. Length: must cover the ankle, but below the shin

Girl's Uniform and Dress Code

Girl's Shirts

- a. Short or Long sleeve with school logo
- b. Color: White, Baby Blue

- c. Fit: Shirt must always remain tucked in
- d. Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Anton Uniforms

Girl's Pants

- a. Color: Navy Blue
- b. Style: Flat pleated front dress pants, no jeans or cargo pants, with belt loops and a solid, dark belt
- c. Fit: Pants should reach the shoe but not drag on the ground. No excessively baggy or tight-fitting pants will be permitted. Pants should be worn at the waist with no undergarments visible. The slacks should have belt loops and a solid, dark belt should be used.
- d. Vendor: Any as long as pants are indistinguishable from the approved vendor pants

Girl's Shorts

- a. Color: Navy blue
- b. Style: Flat or pleated front walking shorts. Shorts should fall mid-thigh and not be longer than the knee, with belt loops and a solid dark belt
- c. Fit: No excessively-baggy or tight-fitting shorts will be permitted. Shorts should be worn at the waist with no undergarments visible. The shorts should have belt loops and a solid, dark belt should be used
- d. Vendor: Any as long as the shorts are indistinguishable from the approved vendor

Girl's Jumper and/or Skort -K-2 Girls

- a. Color: Navy
- b. Length: The skirt hem may be no higher than just above the knee, both in front and in back. Skirt hem should be within two inches of the ground when properly adjusted at the waist and kneeling on a level surface and may be longer if desired. Skirts must be worn at the waist
- c. Dark spandex tight-fitting shorts reaching mid-thigh must be worn under the jumper
- d. Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Anton Uniforms

Girl's Skort and/or Skirt -3-5 Grade Girls

- a. Color: Navy (some schools will add plaid)
- b. Length: The skirt hem may be no higher than just above the knee, both in front and in back. Skirt hem should be within two inches of the ground when properly adjusted at the waist and kneeling on a level surface and may be longer if desired. Skirts must be worn at the waist
- c. Dark spandex tight-fitting shorts reaching mid-thigh must be worn under the skirt
- d. Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Anton Uniforms

Girl's Shoes

- a. Color: The shoes should be solid white, or solid black

- b. No colors on the shoes or soles
- c. No neon or bright colored shoe laces (black shoes must have black laces and white shoes must have white laces)
- d. Style: low-top athletic (tennis, Keds) shoes.

Socks or Tights

- a. Color: Solid black, blue or white without visible logos or designs
- b. Length: Ankle or knee-high socks

General Uniform and Dress Code Option for all Students

Sweater

- a. Color: Navy with school logo
- b. Style: fleece or cardigan
- c. Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Anton Uniforms

Pullover Jacket

- a. Color: Navy with crest
- b. Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Anton Uniforms

Outerwear: Jackets may be worn to school for warmth but must be free of logos and messages. Jackets may only be worn before and after school and during recess.

Backpacks: Students may bring backpacks and lunchboxes to and from school. These items must be stored on the designated shelving units in the classroom during the school day. Due to small storage spaces, rolling backpacks are not permitted without a doctor's note. Backpacks and lunchboxes should be free of icons of pop culture (peace signs, cartoon characters, tie-dyed patterns etc.) as well as messages that are offensive or inappropriate to the academy environment.

ACTE officials may search and seize property when there is reason to believe that some material or matter is present that is detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of students.

If the cost of the uniform presents a financial hardship for your family, please contact the school office for assistance.

Hair, Jewelry and Makeup

Girl's Hair: Hair should be neatly combed or styled. Neat small bows, barrettes, headbands, and hair ties are permissible so long as they coordinate with the uniform. Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color and cut (no bleaching or unnatural streaking/highlighting,

no artificial jet-black coloring, and no unnatural colors). Accommodations for religious reasons are permitted.

Boy's Hair: Hair should be neatly combed or styled. Hair must be above the top of the shirt collar. Hair should be styled so that it does not fall below the eyebrows or past the midpoint of the ear. Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color and cut (no bleaching or unnatural streaking/highlighting, no artificial jet-black coloring, and no unnatural colors). Accommodations for religious reasons are permitted.

Jewelry: Girls may wear small studded earrings. No loops or dangling earrings are permitted. Boys may not wear earrings. No other body piercings are permitted. Boys and girls are permitted to wear one watch. This may not be a smart watch. Bracelets, rings, and necklaces are not permitted unless for religious reasons.

Makeup: Students may not wear makeup of any kind. Nail polish may be worn by girls, one color for all nails – red, pink, or appropriate flesh tone – and must be free of patterns or decorations.

Additional Guidelines

Hats and sunglasses may only be worn outside and must be removed when the student enters the building.

Student's skin should be free of any painted or ink drawings of any kind. Students should not draw on themselves or on others.

If an item of dress or appearance is deemed incongruent with the standards of the Academy by an Administrator, the student must alter his dress or appearance in accordance with the Administrator's directive. Uniform items must be size appropriate, neat in appearance and free of stains, tears or excessive wear. Temporary or permanent tattoos are not permitted; to include pen and ink drawings on the skin

Non-uniform Dress Code for Special Events

Athletic Practice and Outdoor Field Day Dress Code

Just as the Academy provides guidelines for dress code in the classroom, it is important to project the image of professionalism in our athletic attire as well.

All shirts worn for athletic practices and field day should be modest, loose fitting, in good repair (no holes, torn sleeves, etc.), should be worn either tucked in or well over the waist of the pants/shorts if not tucked in. No midriffs may be shown. T-shirts are preferred—no tank tops, camisoles, or sports bras may be worn as outer-garments.

Pants/shorts should be modest, in good repair (no holes, torn sleeves, etc.) Pants should be worn at the waist and should be no shorter than mid-thigh, and no-longer than just below the knee. No

short-shorts or long baggy shorts may be worn. No boxers or undergarments may be visible. No yoga pants.

Attire should be free of inappropriate messages. Sports team logos (e.g., Diamondbacks, Notre Dame), and apparel brand names (e.g., Adidas, Abercrombie) are acceptable, provided they do not make inappropriate allusions. These guidelines also apply to sweatshirts and jackets that students may wear. Footwear should be athletic in nature: no sandals, open-toed, or platform shoes. Hats and sunscreen may be appropriate, if the students will be in the sun. Hat styles should follow the same guidelines as above.

Semi-formal Events Dress Code

There are specific, semi-formal dress requirements for special events, including periodic fine arts concerts and the end-of-year ceremonies (such as commencement and graduation).

Semi-formal and Concert dress: Boys wear a white collared shirt, a conservative tie, with black dress slacks, black dress shoes, and black dress socks. Girls wear a white blouse with a black skirt or black dress slacks and black dress shoes or a modest black dress. Open-toed shoes and reasonable heels are permitted.