



*(Excerpt taken from Petra Parent/Student Handbook, published November 2017.)*

### **School Clothing**

Our dress code is a means through which we 1) establish a community standard of dress at Petra Academy; and 2) train students to submit to a community standard, perhaps instead of their own personal preferences. By enrolling your student at Petra, parents are expected to support all Petra policies, including adherence to the dress code as found in the handbook.

A reiteration of the goals and objectives for the dress code established by the Board is as follows:

1. The dress code should enhance the atmosphere of learning.
2. The dress code should minimize ambiguities as to what is appropriate.
3. The dress code should foster a spirit of camaraderie among Petra students.

**Official Vendors:** To facilitate standardizing school clothing, Petra has entered into agreements with official online vendors, Lands' End ([www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com)), French Toast ([www.frenchtoast.com](http://www.frenchtoast.com)), or Tommy Hilfiger ([www.globalschoolwear.com](http://www.globalschoolwear.com)).

For the simplest and most common items of the clothing policy, slacks and shirts, it is acceptable to use other vendors provided they conform to the same color and style standards as the Petra-approved garments of the official vendors (i.e. same colors, same styles, no logos). For skirts, jumpers, culottes, and sweaters, we ask that you choose only from Lands' End ([www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com)), French Toast ([www.frenchtoast.com](http://www.frenchtoast.com)), or Tommy Hilfiger ([www.globalschoolwear.com](http://www.globalschoolwear.com)) because of the endless nuanced differences in styles of these items. If you find something substantially identical in style and color somewhere else, our intention is not to become “tag checkers,” but the garments listed in our “official vendors” will be the standard used to determine whether or not a garment is acceptable.

### **Basic Dress Principles**

The clarifications of basic dress principles for all Petra students should be reiterated and followed:

1. Shirts are to be tucked in for boys and girls.
2. Belts are to be worn with slacks (does not apply to PreK/K students for bathroom reasons).
3. Students may not dye hair unnatural colors.

4. Boys may wear rings and/or watches, but no other jewelry.
5. No body piercing is allowed for students except for a set of earrings for girls.
6. Older boys should be clean-shaven.
7. Students may not wear hats or coats inside the school building. Only approved fleeces with the Petra logo may be worn over clothes in classrooms and hallways.
8. Undergarments (i.e. undershirts/blouses) must be white and shorter sleeved than shirts.
9. Clothing should be neat and in good repair. Frayed bottoms, holes in knees, etc. are to be repaired.
10. Modesty, decency, and propriety (1 Timothy 2) are all expected and will be modeled and monitored by faculty, all of whom – with the support of the Headmaster – will have discretion to address a violation of the policy. This will be done lovingly, but it will be done.

#### **K4-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**

- Dress Slacks – pleated front or flat front, slit back pockets (no exterior, flap or cargo pockets, no canvas fabric, no denim, no corduroy, no low rise, no jean, no double seams and no “pencil leg” or “skinny” slacks); navy or khaki
- Skirts – pleated, kick-pleated; navy, khaki, or plaid (official vendors); must be at line behind knee length
- Jumpers – (Elementary only) kick-pleated/scoop neck; navy, khaki, or plaid (official vendors)
- Culottes – navy or khaki (official vendors)
- Long or short sleeve oxford shirts – white or light blue (no  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeve)
- Long or short sleeve Peter Pan shirts (girls only) – white or light blue (note: must have full-button front like oxford and not be a knit fabric)
- Long or short sleeve polo shirts – white, navy, wine/burgundy, light blue
- Turtlenecks – white, navy, wine/burgundy, light blue
- Sweaters – pullover, cardigan, & sweater vests; navy (official vendors)
- Fleece Jacket – a navy fleece jacket with Petra logos (available from Lands’ End or Tommy Hilfiger)
- Navy Blazers – not required
- Dress belt – plain black or brown (not required for PreK/Kinder students for bathroom reasons)
- Bike shorts – may be worn under skirts but are not required (note: bike shorts fulfill PE requirement if girls wear skirts or jumpers to PE)
- Shoes – plain black, brown, or navy dress shoes or black or white tennis shoes
  - Girls – Mary Janes, loafers, high-heeled loafers, flats
  - Boys – loafers, laced oxfords, laced loafers

#### **10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**

Rhetoric students (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) may dress along the guidelines of faculty and staff, so long as it is a more formal style of dress. However, because not all non-

uniform clothing is suitable for school, the following guidelines should help faculty, staff, and Rhetoric students determine what is appropriate to wear:

### *In General*

- Clothes should be crisp, neat, and look appropriate for chance meetings with visitors.
- Avoid tight or baggy clothing; clothing should be classic rather than trendy.
- Clothing that works for the beach, yard work, exercise sessions, or sports contests is not appropriate.
- Clothing that reveals a student's back, chest, stomach, or underwear is not appropriate.
- Clothes should be clean, pressed, and free of holes; torn, dirty, or frayed clothing is unacceptable.

### *For Men*

- Wear pants styles such as khakis, gabardine or cotton pants, dress pants, trousers and corduroy pants. Pants should be pressed.
- Choose shirts that have collars, such as polo shirts or cotton button-down shirts. Consider pairing your shirt with a sweater or sweater vest. Always tuck in your shirt to complete the look.
- Ties are optional but encouraged.
- Select a belt and dress shoes or loafers with dress socks. Tennis shoes of any kind should not be worn.

### *For Women*

- Dresses and skirts are acceptable; skirt length should come no higher than the top of the knee and be such that you can sit comfortably and modestly in public. Skirts and dresses should not be too tight.
- Dress pants in corduroy, twill, cotton, linen, wool, and khaki are acceptable. Pants should be pressed.
- Blouses, sweaters, sweater sets, cardigans, polo/knit shirts, turtlenecks, and vests are appropriate. However, please make sure that all shirts are modest.
- Acceptable footwear includes leather shoes, flat trouser shoes, and no more than 3" high heels. Dress boots (boots with zippers) are allowed, but cowboy boots of any kind are not appropriate footwear.

### *What Not to Wear*

- Regardless of gender, it is not appropriate to wear a favorite old t-shirt, ripped jeans, or sneakers.
- Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans, cargo pants, sweatpants, exercise pants, shorts, bib overalls, and any spandex, yoga pants, or other form-fitting pants such as those worn for biking.
- Denim (in any color and on top or on bottom) is not appropriate.

- Mini-skirts, skorts, sun dresses, beach dresses, spaghetti-strap dresses and sleeveless tops are inappropriate, as well as tank tops, midriff tops, halter tops, tops with bare shoulders, sweatshirts, t-shirts (long- and short-sleeved), and shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans.
- Do not wear athletic shoes, sneakers, sandals (for men), flip-flops, sports shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, sport team jackets, or athletic socks.

### **Non-Compliance**

Parents, students, and faculty should understand that the dress code is not a moral issue, but one of community policy the Board has laid out and placed expectation on the Headmaster to uphold; thus, when there are dress infractions, parents or students may request clarification, but there is to be no debate concerning them.

For the first two infractions, students and parents will be notified with a standard clothing policy violation notice via email and expected to address the situation at home. The third violation in a quarter will result in an office visit and parents will be asked to bring an appropriate replacement item. Any deliberate violation of the clothing policy that is deemed defiant will result in an immediate office visit and parents will be asked to either immediately bring in an appropriate replacement item or to take the student home.

### **Griffin Gear & Spirit Days**

Rather than “dress down days” or “casual Fridays,” Petra Academy hold a Spirit Day once a month. These days are scheduled by the Headmaster on the school calendar (usually in conjunction with the start of a particular extra curricular season), and all students and staff are encouraged to wear clothing that demonstrates their Petra spirit, whether by color and/or logo. Approved clothing for Spirit Days includes:

- Purchased or homemade logoed Griffin Gear (T-shirts, sweatshirts, or hoodies)
- Plain (i.e. non-lettered) navy, maroon, or silver T-shirts, sweatshirts, or hoodies
- Nice blue jeans (no holes, tears, etc.)
- Tennis shoes

Students may also choose to wear their regular uniform on these days, or they may swap any item of the regular uniform for one of the Griffin Gear items. Secondary students (only) may color their hair for the day, so long as it is completely washed out in time for school the following day.