



## **K-8 UNIFORM POLICY (2023-24)**

Uniforms are mandatory for all K-8 students at The Vanguard School, and students are expected to be in uniform when they are in any school building. Wearing uniforms is intended to improve discipline and enhance the overall learning environment and also shows pride in oneself and in The Vanguard School.

The Board of Directors of The Vanguard School has established the following policy:

### **MISSION**

The learning environment is significantly influenced by students' attire. Wearing uniforms impacts the school positively by:

- Fostering a distinct and positive Vanguard appearance
- Helping students focus on learning
- Reducing distractions
- Increasing wardrobe equality

Items that noticeably differ from the approved uniform will not be allowed. The Board delegates to the administration and staff and reserves the right, at its discretion, to deny any item that is noticeably different in style, color, or fabric. Students wearing noticeably different items will be subject to the consequences outlined below. Items not covered above, but considered inappropriate, dangerous, or a distraction from the learning environment are subject to review and prohibition by the administration.

Uniforms must be worn on field trips unless the administration approves otherwise. Uniforms are not required for evening or weekend activities unless specified by the administration or the activity supervisor.

### **ENFORCEMENT AND CONSEQUENCES**

#### **ENFORCEMENT**

Within the school, the dress code will be enforced by the classroom teachers, other staff members, and The Vanguard School administration. The final decision as to the safety or suitability of any dress code issue will be left up to the principal or designee.

Anyone with a medical or religious reason for not following the above dress code guidelines will need permission from the principal prior to non-compliance with this dress code. Cheerful, consistent compliance with the uniform policy is expected by all.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR UNIFORM VIOLATIONS**

Uniform violations may be noted in the student's planner or otherwise documented (uniform violation slip). An "Oops Form" will be sent to parents after each infraction, and an office referral will be assigned for every four accumulated uniform violations. If a student violates the uniform policy in a manner that cannot be immediately corrected, the student may be asked to call his/her parent or guardian to bring an appropriate uniform item(s) which will allow the student to comply with uniform policies.

## **UNIFORM WEAR GUIDANCE**

Parents have the responsibility to ensure that their children arrive at school in the proper uniform. Students are expected to be dressed neatly, be well groomed, and have a generally good appearance. Uniforms are to be clean, of appropriate size/fit, and free of holes, tears, and frays. Uniforms must be worn as intended by the policy. A student will be deemed out of compliance for wearing non-approved items or by wearing approved items in a manner that is sloppy, immodest, or otherwise inappropriate.

## **UNIFORMS FOR GIRLS**

### **Pants / Shorts**

#### **Pants:**

- Must be chino blend or cotton chino in navy blue color (pleated or flat front).
- Must be navy blue color; no denim or stretch material.
- No cargo pants or capris are permitted.
- Must fit the waistline or low waist.
- No "low riding" or "skinny" styles are permitted.
- May not touch the floor or be above the ankle.
- Pants must be non-cuffed and may not be rolled to achieve the proper length.
- Must be worn with a belt and have belt loops (grades 1 through 8).

#### **Shorts:**

- May not be shorter than fingertip length.
- May not go below the knee.
- Must be worn with a belt (grades 1 through 8).

### **Belts**

- Must be solid color – navy blue, dark brown (not tan), black, or dark gray.
- No embellishments, spikes, metal protrusions, beading, or painted designs.
- Must be worn even if they don't show, such as with a sweatshirt, vest, or sweater.
- Must be worn with pants and shorts (grades 1 through 8).

### **Skirts / Skorts / Jumpers / Dresses**

#### **Skirts and skorts:**

- Must be at the knee or long pleated in classic navy.
- Must be no shorter than fingertip length.
- Shorts worn under skirts should be solid color, match the skirt color, and not protrude past the length of the skirt.

### Jumpers and dresses:

- Jumpers and dresses must be navy blue in color; no denim or stretch fabrics.
- Dresses must be navy in color and must have a collar.
- Shorts worn under jumpers should be solid color, match the jumper color, and not protrude past the length of the jumper.

### **Shirts / Blouses / Turtlenecks / Sweaters / Sweatshirts / Undershirts**

All polo shirts, blouses, and shirts must have buttons all the way to the top of the garment. Shirts must be buttoned to a standard of neatness and modesty. Shirts, blouses, and turtlenecks must be worn tucked inside the pants, skirts, skorts, or shorts.

### Polo shirts and turtlenecks:

- May be worn in white, red, navy, and chambray blue only, short or long sleeve.
- Polo shirts must be plain, without decoration.
- Turtlenecks with a full-turned or mock collar are permitted.
- No bow ties or neckties may be worn with uniform attire.

### Dress shirts and blouses:

- Short or long sleeved; must be solid white, red, navy, or chambray blue in color.

### Sweaters:

- Sweaters and vests must be worn in solid red, chambray blue, or navy blue only. A uniform shirt must be worn underneath, and the collar or turtleneck must be visible.
- Sweaters allowed include zip-front or button-front cardigan, crewneck or V-neck, and sweater vests (V-neck styles only).
- Embellished and hooded sweaters **are not** approved uniform items.

### Sweatshirts:

- Pullover Vanguard logo sweatshirts (**not** Spirit Wear sweatshirts or hoodies) may be worn as part of the regular uniform provided a uniform shirt is worn underneath and the collar or turtleneck is showing.
- ***All sweatshirts must be purchased from The Vanguard School.***

### Undershirts:

- An undershirt may be worn underneath a uniform shirt. It must be tucked in, and the longest sleeve of a shirt or blouse must be on the outside. T-shirts worn as an undergarment must be white if visible.

### **Bow Ties / Neckties**

- No bow ties or neckties may be worn with uniform attire.

### **Shoes**

- Required at all times.
- No slippers, flip flops, Crocs, or shower/beach thong sandals.
- No lights or wheels.
- Boots must be below the knee.
- Heels/soles must be a maximum height of 2 inches.
- Athletic shoes are required for gym.

- Patterns, decorations, and images on shoes must be discreet and not cause a distraction.

### **Socks / Tights**

- Girls must wear solid-color, navy blue, red, white, gray, or black socks or tights.
- Tights must be in good repair.
- Socks above the knee are not allowed.

### **Hair**

- May not distract from the learning environment.
- Must be maintained in a neat and clean manner at all times.
- Only natural hair colors are allowed.
- Must remain out of the face and away from the eyes.
- No unusual or radical hairstyles are allowed. See below:
  - No undercuts
  - No mohawks
  - No design/pattern cuts, symbols, or shapes of any kind shaved on the head
- No angular fringe.

### **Hair Accessories**

- May wear hair accessories such as barrettes, bows, ponytail holders, and headbands.
- Girls may not wear anything that could be considered a distraction or “costume” such as animal ears or other novelties.

### **Headwear and Sunglasses**

- May only be worn outside of the building.
- Headwear includes, but is not limited to, hats, scarves, visors, and bandanas.

### **Jewelry / Piercing / Tattoos / Makeup**

All jewelry must be non-offensive and not draw undue attention. Excessive or large amounts of jewelry items are not permitted for safety reasons and for a lack of compliance with the overall intent of student appearance.

- An object that has a purpose other than jewelry may not be worn as jewelry.
- Two small discreet earrings per ear up to 4 mm in diameter; no oversized earrings that hang past the chin line.
- Length of and patterns on fingernails may not be distracting to the learning environment.
- Girls in grades 6 through 8 may wear minimal makeup (no unusual or distracting colors).
- No ear gauges, facial piercings, or ear cuffs.
- No visible tattoos (permanent or temporary), to include drawing on body.
- No more than three bracelets may be worn on each wrist.
- No more than three rings may be worn on each hand.
- No body art, including drawing or writing on skin made by the student with a writing utensil.

### **Jackets / Outerwear**

- Students may wear their choice of outerwear to and from school and during recess.
- Outerwear may not be worn in the classroom.
- Vanguard-only quarter zips with a collar may be worn in the classroom.

## UNIFORMS FOR BOYS

### **Pants / Shorts**

#### Pants:

- Must be chino blend or cotton chino in navy blue color only (pleated or flat front).
- No cargo pants, ankle pants, or capris are permitted.
- Must fit the waistline or low waist.
- No “low riding” or “skinny” styles are permitted.
- May not touch the floor or be above the ankle.
- Pants must be non-cuffed and may not be rolled to achieve the proper length.
- Must be worn with a belt and have belt loops (grades 1 through 8).

#### Shorts:

- May not be shorter than 3 inches above the top of the knee when standing.
- May not go below the knee.
- “Skater-type” shorts may not be worn.
- Must be worn with a belt and have belt loops (grades 1 through 8).

### **Shirts / Turtlenecks / Sweaters / Sweatshirts / Undershirts**

All polo shirts and other shirts must have buttons all the way to the top of the garment. Shirts must be buttoned to a standard of neatness and modesty. Shirts and turtlenecks must be worn tucked inside the pants or shorts.

#### Polo shirts and turtlenecks:

- May be worn in white, red, navy, and chambray blue only, short or long sleeve.
- May be of mesh or interlock material, with or without cuffs, with two to four buttons.
- Polo shirts must be plain, without decoration.
- Collars must be plain.
- Turtlenecks with a full-turned or mock collar are permitted.

#### Oxford shirts:

- Short or long sleeved, white or light blue, with or without a pocket.
- Oxford shirts must have a button-down collar.

#### Sweaters:

- Sweaters and vests must be “drifter-style” only and must be worn in red or navy blue only. A uniform shirt must be worn underneath, and the collar or turtleneck must be visible.
- Sweaters may be worn in zip-front or button-front cardigan, crewneck or V-neck, and sweater vests (V-neck styles only).
- Cable knits, fine-gauge cotton cardigans, and hooded sweaters **are not** approved uniform items.

#### Sweatshirts:

- Pullover Vanguard logo sweatshirts (**not** Spirit Wear sweatshirts or hoodies) may be worn as part of the regular uniform provided a uniform shirt is worn underneath and the collar or turtleneck is showing.
- **All sweatshirts must be purchased from The Vanguard School.**

### Undershirts:

- An undershirt may be worn underneath a uniform shirt. It must be tucked in, and the longest sleeve of a shirt must be on the outside. T-shirts worn as an undergarment must be white if visible.

### **Belts**

- Must be solid color – navy blue, dark brown (not tan), or black.
- No embellishments, spikes, metal protrusions, beading, or painted designs.
- Must be worn even if they don't show, such as with a sweatshirt, vest, or sweater.
- Must be worn with pants and shorts (grades 1 through 8).

### **Bow Ties / Neckties**

- No bow ties or neckties may be worn with uniform attire.

### **Shoes**

- Required at all times.
- No slippers, flip flops, or shower/beach thong sandals.
- No lights or wheels.
- Boots must be below the knee.
- Athletic shoes are required for gym.
- Patterns, decorations, and images on shoes must be discreet and not cause a distraction.

### **Socks**

- Boys must wear solid-color, navy blue, red, white, gray, or black socks.

### **Hair**

- May not distract from the learning environment.
- Must be maintained in a neat and clean manner at all times.
- Only natural hair colors are allowed.
- Must remain out of the face and away from the eyes.
- No unusual or radical hairstyles are allowed. See below:
  - No undercuts
  - No mohawks
  - No design/pattern cuts, symbols, or shapes of any kind shaved on the head
- No angular fringe.
- Guidelines for hair pulled into a bun:
  - No top of the head knots (low or high on the back of the head only)
  - No undercut or partially pulled back hair (full bun only)
  - Must be well groomed and neat

### **Hair Accessories**

- Boys may not wear hair accessories other than a hair tie to secure their hair if longer than the top of the shoulder.

### **Headwear and Sunglasses**

- May only be worn outside of the building.
- Headwear includes, but is not limited to, hats, scarves, visors, and bandanas.

### **Jewelry / Piercing / Tattoos / Makeup**

All jewelry must be non-offensive and not draw undue attention. Excessive or large amounts of jewelry items are not permitted for safety reasons and for a lack of compliance with the overall intent of student appearance. Large neck chains, dog collars, pocket chains, safety pins, and key or wallet chains are not permitted.

- No earrings, facial piercings, ear gauges, or ear cuffs.
- No nail polish or makeup.
- No visible tattoos (permanent or temporary).
- No more than three bracelets may be worn on each wrist.
- No more than three rings may be worn on each hand.

### **Jackets / Outerwear**

- Students may wear their choice of outerwear to and from school and during recess.
- Outerwear may not be worn in the classroom.
- Vanguard-only quarter zips with a collar may be worn in the classroom.

## **UNIFORM EXCEPTIONS**

### **Club / Organization Uniforms**

Students participating in Girl/Boy Scouts may wear their club uniform to school instead of their school uniform on the day of the meeting. When wearing the club/organization uniform, any article of clothing not part of that uniform must be The Vanguard School's uniform.

### **Special Enrichment Activities**

Students participating in special enrichment activities, such as Fiesta Day or the Roman Feast, may wear their costume to school on the day of the event.

### **Special Events**

For special events (musical performances, Moving Up Ceremony, etc.) the school may require more formal attire; guidelines will be published for the event.

### **School Pictures**

Uniforms are not required for individual student pictures taken in the fall, although they may certainly be worn if desired. Students who do not wear uniforms are expected to dress equally as formal as the uniform. Students are not allowed to wear denim – which includes blue jeans, jean jackets, vests, or skirts. No t-shirts, tank tops, or spaghetti straps; shirts must be collared. Shorts and skirts must follow uniform length code. Students are required to wear their uniforms for the class pictures taken in the spring.

### **Spirit / Pizza Day**

Students in grades K through 8 may wear official Vanguard Spirit Wear shirts on the second Friday of each month. Dress code must be followed for all other articles of clothing. Spirit Wear may include Field Day t-shirts as long as they are not autographed.

### **Jean and Hoodie Day**

From time to time, the administration may designate a Jeans and Hoodie Day when students are authorized to wear jeans\* and hoodies (pull-over or zip-up). A school uniform shirt must be

worn under the hoodie. Students must follow the dress code in terms of socks, shoes, jewelry, hair, and makeup. Students may always wear an approved uniform instead of jeans and hoodies.

*\*Pant styles not allowed include: excessively tight or baggy jeans, jeans with holes, or pants with frayed hems.*

**Students not adhering to the dress code may not be allowed to attend class until they are wearing proper attire. The final decision as to the safety or suitability of any dress code issue will be left up to the principal or designee.**