



The Vanguard School / High School (9-12) Dress Code for Ladies (2025-26)

Purpose of the Dress Code

The learning environment is significantly influenced by how students dress. The dress code impacts the school positivity by:

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

Basic Standard of Appearance Guidelines for All Students

- **Personal items are prohibited if they:**
 - Depict violence
 - Advertise tobacco, alcohol, or illegal substances
 - Display offensive slogans
 - Make statements with sexual innuendos
 - Discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.
 - Interfere with or endanger oneself while participating in school or school-sponsored activities
- **Clothing:**
 - Must be clean, pressed, and free of holes, tears, and frays.
 - Must not be worn if it causes or is likely to cause a disruption of the educational process
 - May not depict a style of grooming identified with membership in a gang
 - May not distract from the learning environment

The final decision as to the safety or suitability of clothing, hair, jewelry, and other personal items, will be left up to the principal or designee.

Hair

- May not distract from the learning environment.
- Must be maintained in a clean, neat, and professional manner at all times.
- Must remain out of the face and away from the eyes.
- Only natural colors are allowed.
- No radical styles or colors that distract from the learning environment.
 - No undercuts
 - No mohawks or faux hawks
 - 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 tight to the head (not loose)

Jewelry

- Jewelry must not distract from the learning environment.
- An object that has a purpose other than jewelry cannot be worn as jewelry (e.g., chains or collars).
- No more than three necklaces may be worn at one time.
- No more than three bracelets may be worn on each wrist.
- No more than three rings may be worn on each hand.
- Only single-post or hook earrings are allowed. Earrings are limited to three per ear and must not be oversized. Ear cuffs, bars, gauges, or gauge-like earrings are not allowed.

Tattoos and Body Piercing

- Tattoos must be covered at all times.
 - No intentionally created marks should be visible on the skin.
 - No pierced jewelry other than earrings may be worn.
 - No body art, including drawing or writing on skin made by the student with a writing utensil.
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Makeup and Nail Polish

- Makeup must look natural. There are to be no unusual or distracting colors (e.g., black lipstick).
 - No extreme nail decorations, including jewels and initials, shall be worn. No more than two colors may be worn.
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Pants

- Pants must fit the waistline and cuffs may not touch the ground.
 - Students may not wear denim, of any color, during the school day.
 - No leather of any type or color is allowed.
 - Pants may not be excessively baggy or tight.
 - Sweatpants, warm-ups, pajama pants, banded pants, and jersey (t-shirt fabric) pants are not allowed.
 - Pants may be one solid color, striped, or plaid (i.e., no camouflage, no mixed striped/plaid or patchwork) without screen printing or faded areas.
 - Pants must be in good repair.
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Shorts and Skorts

- No leather or denim of any type or color.
 - Shorts must fit the waistline or low waist. Ultra low-rise waistlines are not allowed.
 - Cuff of shorts must be at least fingertip length.
 - May not be excessively tight.
 - Spandex or tight-fitting stretch shorts are not allowed.
 - No athletic shorts.
 - Shorts may be one solid color, striped, or plaid (i.e., no camouflage) without screen printing or faded areas.
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Skirts, Dresses, Jumpers

- No denim or leather.
 - Dresses must cover at least 2 inches of the shoulder.
 - Skirts, dresses, and jumpers may not be excessively tight and cannot be shorter than fingertip length or show any descriptive lines of the body (i.e. not skintight).
 - Pantyhose, leggings, and tights may be worn under a skirt or dress that otherwise falls within the dress code.
 - Pantyhose, leggings, and tights worn in this manner must be skin-tone, solid color, or a classic pattern. Classic patterns are stripes, plaid, and houndstooth.
 - Pantyhose, leggings, and tights must be free from runs, rips, and holes.
 - Stockings or socks above the knee are not allowed.
 - No fishnet-style stockings or other hosiery that exposes skin may be worn.
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Shirts, Sweaters, Sweatshirts

- Shirts may not be excessively tight or baggy, and all shirts with buttons must be buttoned to mid-sternum.
 - Sleeveless blouses are allowed if at least 2 inches of the shoulder is covered.
 - No tank tops, spaghetti straps, strapless tops, one-shoulder tops, or t-shirts may be worn as a primary (top) shirt. T-shirts include athletic, screen-printed, basic crew neck, scoop neck, or V-neck tees.
 - A tank top, spaghetti strap top, or basic solid-colored tee may be worn with a blouse, sweater, sweatshirt, or blazer over it.
 - Bra straps must not be visible either directly or through lace or other sheer material.
 - No low-cut apparel of any kind is allowed.
 - No midriff shirts that expose stomach or back when standing or sitting.
 - Any logos or sewn words must be on the front in the upper corner near the shoulder.
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Outerwear

- Outerwear (i.e., coats, jackets, non-Vanguard hoodies, fleece, hats, winter scarves, or gloves) shall be removed after entering the building.
 - Vanguard letterman jackets may be worn in the building as well as Vanguard spirit wear that has a collar (not to include windbreaker-type jackets).
 - Fleece-collared outerwear that has a quarter-zip may also be worn in the building.
 - Hoodies that are officially approved as Vanguard spirit wear may be worn (hood must be down at all times) in the building.
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Undergarments

- No undergarments may show at any time, nor should they be worn as outer garments.
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Headwear and Sunglasses

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

- Required at all times.
 - Athletic sandals with a heel strap may be worn.
 - No slippers, flip flops, slides, Croc-styles, or Birkenstock-styles.
 - No writing on shoes.
 - 3.5-inch maximum heel height.
 - Boots must stay below the knee.
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Physical Education and Sports

- Separate attire should be used for P.E., including athletic shoes and socks. (*see P.E. syllabus*)
 - Vanguard issued sports uniforms are approved for use during practice and games.
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Vanguard Sportswear

- Vanguard sportswear (team windbreakers, sweatshirts, etc.) may be worn at specific times with prior approval from the principal.
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Special Events

- For special events (musical performances, Graduation, Baccalaureate, etc.) the school may require more formal attire. Guidelines will be published for such events.
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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 Executive Director or designee.