

**THE VANGUARD SCHOOL**  
**POLICY: JICAB – High School Dress Code**  
**Approved: 4-15-26**

**Purpose of the Dress Code**

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

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

**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

Items that noticeably differ from the approved dress code 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. 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.

## **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.

### **Consequences for Dress Code Violations**

A student in violation of the dress code will be required to correct the violation before attending class. If a student violates the policy in a manner that cannot be immediately corrected, the student may be asked to call his/her parent or guardian to bring the appropriate item(s) which will allow the student to comply with uniform policies.

### **Dress Code Wear Guidance**

Parents have the responsibility to ensure that their children arrive at school in the proper attire. Students are expected to be dressed neatly, be well groomed, and have a generally good appearance. Clothing is expected to be clean, of appropriate size/fit, and free of holes, tears, and frays. Clothing 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.

### **Alterations to Dress Code**

Any alterations to the dress code must be approved by the Executive Director and reported to the Board of Directors so the dress code can be updated.

Specific dress codes for Ladies and Gentlemen are attached as Appendix A: Ladies and Appendix B: Gentlemen and modified separately without formal reapproval of the policy.

## **APPENDIX A: APPROVED DRESS CODE FOR LADIES**

### **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

### **Makeup and Nail Polish**

- Makeup must look natural; 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.

### **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.
- Team hoodies that are officially approved as Vanguard spirit wear may be worn (hood must be down at all times) in the building.

## **Undergarments**

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

### **Headwear and Sunglasses**

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

### **Shoes**

- Required at all times
- Athletic sandals with a heel strap may be worn.

### **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.

### **Vanguard Sportswear**

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

- Baccalaureate is a formal affair, based on traditional events such as the Broadmoor Cotillion.
- Formal attire and modest style meeting the Vanguard Dress Code as described above
- Attire color for ladies is white. (*This change is effective starting with the 2026-27 school year.*)
- Dresses will be floor length.
- Formal pantsuit
  - Full-length slacks/pants
  - Formal top
  - No denim
- Shoes will be formal flats, heels, or dressy sandals. Athletic shoes will not be allowed.
- All attire will be approved by the Principal or designee prior to the event.

### **Graduation**

- Vanguard-approved cap and gown will be unwrinkled and worn over outfit.
- Cap
  - Class year tassel attached to mortarboard
  - No additional cap decorations are allowed (decorations, writing, etc.)
- Gown
  - Approved cords and medals only
    - NHS stole
    - Thespian Society cord
    - Courser medal (given to students who have been at Vanguard since Kindergarten)
    - Scouts
    - Latin Honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude)

- Clothing under the cap and gown
    - Semi-formal
    - Medium- to short-length dress/skirt within Vanguard Dress Code guidelines. (Hem should not show below graduation gown.)
    - Black dress pants
    - Clean shoes. No athletic shoes.
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## **Special Events**

- For special events (musical performances, dances, spirit week, etc.) the school may provide specific guidelines. These guidelines will be published separately for such events.

## **APPENDIX B: APPROVED DRESS CODE FOR GENTLEMEN**

### **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
- Men's hair that extends to the top of the shoulder or below must be pulled back.
- 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)

### **Facial Hair**

- May not distract from the learning environment and must be well groomed
- No radical styles (e.g., braided and/or pony-tailed beards)

### **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.
- Earrings, ear cuffs, bars, gauges, or gauge-like earrings may not be worn.

### **Tattoos and Body Piercing**

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

### **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.

### **Shorts**

- No denim or leather of any type or color
- Shorts must fit the waistline.
- Shorts must be at least fingertip length.
- Spandex or tight-fitting 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.

### **Shirts, Sweaters, Sweatshirts**

- Shirts must have collars and be buttoned to the mid-sternum. No undershirt designs may be visible.
- All shirt collars are to be folded down.
- No shirts that are excessively tight or baggy, and no holes or tears
- Shirts must have sleeves.
- Longer shirts must be tucked in.
- Patterned shirts are allowed; shirts with screen printing are not allowed.
- Any logos or sewn words must be on the front in the upper corner near the shoulder.

### **Outerwear**

- Outerwear (i.e., coats, non-Vanguard hoodies, jackets, fleece, hats, 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 and is quarter-zip (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.

### **Undergarments**

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

### **Headwear and Sunglasses**

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

### **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.

## **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.

## **Vanguard Sportswear**

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

- Baccalaureate is a formal affair, based on traditional events such as the Broadmoor Cotillion.
- Formal attire meeting the Vanguard Dress Code as described above
- Gentlemen are to wear a black suit. (*This change is effective starting with the 2026-27 school year.*)
- White, collared shirt
- Black tie or bow-tie
- Black dress socks
- Black formal dress shoes. Athletic shoes or sandals will not be allowed.
- All attire will be approved by the Principal or designee prior to event.

## **Graduation**

- Vanguard-approved cap and gown will be unwrinkled and worn over outfit.
- Cap
  - Class year tassel attached to mortarboard
  - No additional cap decorations are allowed (decorations, writing, etc.)
- Gown
  - Approved cords and medals only
    - NHS stole
    - Thespian Society cord
    - Courser medal (given to students who have been at Vanguard since Kindergarten)
    - Scouts
    - Latin Honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude)
- Clothing under the cap and gown
  - Semi-formal
  - Collared dress shirt (tie optional)
  - Black dress pants
  - Clean shoes. No athletic shoes, boots, or sandals.

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## **Special Events**

- For special events (musical performances, dances, spirit week, etc.) the school may provide specific guidelines.
- These guidelines will be published separately for such events.