

Grooming and Attire

Uniforms play an important role in maintaining a culture of focused learning and positive behavior and in many respects the image of Academy Prep Center of Tampa. Uniforms promote a sense of school identity and cohesion, helping raise the standard of school academics and prepare students for success.

For example, **extreme, eccentric trendy haircuts or hairstyles are not acceptable**. Hair color, other than that which is natural hair color is prohibited. Colors that detract from a professional student's appearance are prohibited.

Experts say that standard uniforms reduce peer pressure by removing attention from economic and social differences among students. They have found that standard uniforms save money, time, and energy.

Here are the guidelines and expectations for daily dress.

Everyday Wear for Girls and Boys

- Dark green polo shirt (long or short sleeve) for 5th – 7th graders; white polo shirt (long or short sleeve) for 8th graders
- Plain black belt with a simple buckle
- All black, closed-toe, rubber-soled shoes (no high tops or boots, allowed). Plain black athletic shoes are acceptable; no exception as to color. Shoes must be all black including the laces, soles, trim, logo, etc.
- Academy Prep P.E. uniforms, which may include standard P.E. Academy Prep shirts and any t-shirts issued by Academy Prep
- P.E. shoes for P.E. classes only: athletic shoes of any color are acceptable
- Solid white crew socks that are above the ankle but not above the calf
- Solid navy blue sweaters, sweatshirts, or jackets (no logos/labels other than Academy Prep's) may be worn over the students' shirts.
- Clothing must be appropriately sized.
- Only white, navy blue, hunter green, or P.E. t-shirts are permitted to be worn as undershirts
- No caps, hats, or bandanas

Girls

- Navy blue pants, shorts, skirts, or skorts.
- Shorts, skirts, skorts must not be shorter than 2 inches above the knee cap

Boys

- Navy blue pants or shorts

- Shorts must not be shorter than 2 inches above the knee cap or longer than the bottom of the knee cap

Jewelry

- Girls may have small ear studs or ½ inch hoop earrings in the lowest earlobe (1 earring per ear) and small religious jewelry is worn inside the shirt
- No other jewelry, with the exception of analog watches, that is visible outside of clothing; this includes necklaces, rings, bracelets, and any other ring attached to the body
- No smartwatches or other electronic devices.

Hair and Hair Accessories

- Hair may not be distracting in any way
- Hair may not be colored or highlighted in any way
- Hair designs (including lines, symbols, letters, words, and Mohawks) and eyebrow designs are not permitted
- Boys' hair must be kept neat and clean, out of the eyes, and clearly off the collar
- No beards or mustaches are permitted
- Girls hair must be kept neat and clean, out of the eyes as well as no longer than 2 inches above the waistline (this must be done without the use of hair ties, bandanas or scarves)
- Hair ties, barrettes, beads, headbands, headwraps, and small bows may be worn if they are black, brown, white, yellow, dark green, or navy blue

Nails and Makeup

- Nails must be neat, natural, and manicured. No artificial nails or nail polish.
- No makeup (eye shadow, blush, eyeliner, lipstick, etc.) is allowed.

Masks and Facecoverings

- Students (teachers and staff) must wear facemasks while inside the classroom, and while they are outside if they are unable to maintain social-distancing.
- **Masks should be properly worn (close-fitting, covering the nose and mouth.)**
- **Masks, much like hair, should not be distracting in any way.**
- **The administration reserves the right to determine if a logo or brand depicted on a mask is inappropriate.**
- **No gaiters or bandanas are allowed.**