



WHERE *Brilliance* BEGINS

## ULS Dress Code

**Standards of Dress:** At ULS we believe that learning good decision-making about one's own personal appearance directly relates to the development of a positive and healthy self-image. This document is in no way intended to be a definitive resource list of what is or what is not appropriate. Dress at ULS should support our mission of delivering an education of "high standards" while honoring the school's "unique approach to learning." Dress standards at ULS have been crafted based on the unique developmental needs, academic requirements, and social responsibilities contained within each of our three academic divisions.

Regardless of division, students may not wear: ripped or ragged pants, sweatpants, athletic wear, flip-flops, hats or caps. In addition, students may not show bare shoulders, wear spaghetti straps, wear low necklines that show visible cleavage, have visible tattoos, expose midriffs or show body piercings (earrings are permitted). Hair color should appear natural, though hair dye is acceptable as long as it is of a natural looking shade.

**Lower School:** JK-4th grade students in the Manegold Lower School are kinesthetic explorers of the highest order. For this reason, it is of great importance they be allowed and encouraged to wear clothing that is comfortable and appropriate to wear not only in the classroom, but also on the playground and over all of our 180 acres of natural learning space. Their dress should be seasonally appropriate, practical, clean and neat. Shirts should avoid images that promote distracting or inappropriate themes. Clothing should not be ripped or frayed, and sweatpants are not acceptable. Because Lower School students study and play outside on almost a daily basis during the school day, it is very important for these students to also bring seasonally appropriate wear for these Purposes.

**Middle School & Upper School:** 5th -8 th grade students in the Stackner Middle School are rapidly transitioning from childhood into puberty, and Upper School students are student-leaders preparing to enter college. These students' dress should express a commitment to academic and personal excellence and professionalism, while helping them feel comfortable, safe and free from social distractions in the classroom. In order to clearly meet these dress goals, during the academic day Upper and Middle School students must abide the following guidelines:

- Collared shirts and blouses are preferred, but it is acceptable to wear plain T-shirts with no printed text or images (patterns and stripes are fine).
- Students may wear licensed collegiate shirts.
- Slacks and skirts are preferred, but neat shorts and jeans are acceptable.
- Shorts must be no shorter than mid-thigh length, and skirts and dresses must come to at least the top of the knee.
- Students must wear clothing that is of proper fit and devoid of text or images (unless the clothing is ULS-branded spiritwear). A small brand logo on an article of clothing is acceptable.
- All clothing should be clean, neat, worn in good taste and should not challenge common perceptions of modesty and propriety.
- Because Middle and Upper School students regularly have physical education classes, occasional outdoor studies, and after-school sports activities, it is very important for these students to bring a separate change of appropriate wear for these purposes.

**All-School Assemblies and Theme-Wear Days:** Once per month, whenever ULS holds an all-school assembly (usually the second Friday of each month), students should be especially aware to have a more formal look. Students will be encouraged to dress nicely on these occasions. Clothing should be nice, neat and clean, especially for those students who are expected to present on stage. Also, on occasion, fun theme-wear days may be approved by the administration.

**Managing Dress Standards:** In the event a ULS employee has a concern about a student's choice of clothing, the following protocol will be utilized:

- If there is a new dress-related concern with a student, then it should be shared directly with the student in a respectful manner during an individual meeting before, during or after class. A teacher may also prompt the Division Head/Dean of Students to contact the student's parent regarding the concern.
- Please remember that concerns about dress, when shared with students or parents, are not meant to demean or to pass negative judgment on an individual. Almost every student will at some time make a questionable decision regarding dress or appearance. It is our responsibility as educators and parents to properly redirect students in these cases. Dress concerns, when respectfully shared by the school, should never become a subject for challenge or debate.
- Students who make the choice to repeatedly challenge dress standards or ignore concerns that are shared by teachers about their appearance are subject to disciplinary action by the Division Head/Dean of Students.
- Sometimes immediate corrective action is necessary where a student needs to go home or have a change of clothing delivered to school. On rare occasions, a student may need to quickly rectify a dress issue by acquiring clothing from the school store. In such cases, the school's business office will place the charge for the purchase on the family's account.