

## Uniform and Dress Code

Tempe Preparatory Academies have a primary objective of developing a "community of learners," dedicated to the highest standards of academics and deportment. As such, a distinctive uniform is a unifying factor within our school community. It is also a visible signature of our schools to the larger community, an indicator of our unity and of our pride of purpose. This is the most important function of a uniform: it identifies its wearer as part of a distinctive group with a distinctive purpose. It is a reminder to its wearer of that purpose and of one's responsibility to that group.

Another purpose of a uniform is to reduce the attention given to appearances, and to questions of group affiliation, socio-economic status, and the like. We want students to attend to the ideas and character of their colleagues in school, expressed in other students' words and deeds, rather than focusing on external appearances. We hope to engender in students a respect for the essential dignity of others. Our desire is not to quash students' individuality, but to secure their commitment to a community of learners whose purpose, while at school, is scholarship and character development.

Our students should dress their best, look their best, and do their best. All clothing must be clean, neat, reasonably pressed, and in properly fitting condition. If a child is deemed to be wearing inappropriate attire, the parent will be notified and a change of clothing may be required for attendance that day. If in doubt about the appropriateness of an article of clothing, check with the school office before purchasing such items. Good judgment exercised at home will be a learning activity for the child that will help to avoid embarrassment or wasted time at school. Decisions about the appropriateness of apparel may be referred to the Headmaster, whose judgment will be final.

Other than the dress code requirements that follow, there are special requirements for periodic, special events throughout the year, such as the "semi-formal" dress code for concert participation and the all-school awards ceremony. Please see *Dress Code for Special Events* below for an exact definition of how the Academies define "semi-formal" attire.

**Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus during a school day. This includes before school and after school. Students may only change out of uniform after school with permission of a teacher or coach to participate in an approved curricular or extra-curricular activity that requires a change in dress.**

Tempe Preparatory Academies refer to the standards established by Dennis Uniforms for the kind of pants, shorts, skirts and shirts that are required by the Academies, but such clothing may be purchased elsewhere. The Headmaster and the Assistant Headmaster will be the final judges of whether clothing bought at stores other than Dennis is in accord with the guidelines of the dress code. Any question of propriety of an article of clothing, jewelry, hair, facial hair or other issue covered by the Dress Code will be determined by the Headmaster.

## **Boys' Uniform and Dress Code**

**Boys' Pants:** Khaki dress slacks that reach to the shoe but do not touch the ground. No patch pockets, extra zippers or seams. No oversized, baggy pants will be permitted. Dress slacks should be worn at the waist. The slacks should have belt loops and a plain, solid, black or dark brown belt should be used. During hot weather months (August - October and March - May) khaki walking shorts with appropriate, plain black brown belt may be worn. Shorts must be worn at the waist and should hang to just above the knee but not below, and should not be tight fitting or excessively baggy.

**Boys' Shirts:** Solid white or navy blue collared, knit polo shirts (two- or three-button, with or without a breast pocket--no logos, except the applicable Tempe Prep logo) or white, oxford button-down dress shirts, short or long sleeve. Shirts must always be tucked in so that the waistband of pants or shorts is visible. Male athletes may wear a white dress shirt and tie on their game days. Seniors may wear an approved blue blazer.

**Boys' Footwear:** Black or dark brown, solid-colored, low-heeled, low-soled dress shoes with dark laces or loafers, and solid-colored (black, dark brown or khaki) socks. No heel-high socks. No high-top shoes or boots. Sneakers, tennis or jogging shoes will be permitted only during athletic activities. White socks may be worn only with shorts.

**Boys' Hair:** Hair should be neatly trimmed and combed and be well off the top of the shirt collar. In a normal sitting position, hair should not overlap the shirt collar. Hair should not be so long as to hang below the eyes if combed forward nor long enough to bring into a ponytail. Hair on the side of the head should allow at least the bottom half of the ears to be visible. Side burns must be cut to be at or above mid-ear. Crew cuts are permitted, but a clipper attachment may only be used to cut the hair as long as the head does not appear shaved or skin widely visible underneath. Hair should not be arranged so as to draw undue attention to the student. Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color. No dyed hair. Radical changes in hair color during the school year are unacceptable. No Mohawks, rat's tails, or braids are allowed, nor are shaved heads. No facial hair. Boys should be clean-shaven.

**Boys' Jewelry:** No nose-rings or earrings or other body-piercing jewelry will be permitted for boys. Nor are wrist bracelets or necklaces permitted. One watch and one ring are permissible. Both must be tasteful. Jewelry should not be distracting or dangerous. Students may appeal to the Headmaster for permission to wear items of religious significance, but if physically possible, such items should be worn underneath clothing.

**Boys' Headwear:** Hats, bandannas, hairnets and sunglasses will not be permitted indoors and must be stored in student lockers.

**Boys' Outer Wear:** Jackets, sweatshirts and sweaters may be worn to school for warmth, but must be free of logos, except the applicable Tempe Prep logo, and advertisements. Sweatshirts and jackets worn to and from school must be stored in lockers during classes and between classes, other than during the lunch period. A solid, navy blue sweater in the uniform colors, or the approved crew-neck sweatshirt (available through Dennis Uniform) may be worn in the classroom. Tempe Prep issued athletic letter jackets or sweaters may also be worn in the classroom.

No tattoos, temporary or permanent. This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin. No oversized or baggy clothing will be permitted.

## **Girls' Uniform and Dress Code**

**Girls' Skirts:** A plaid Tempe Prep uniform skirt is available at Dennis Uniform in two styles. The skirt hem should reach to just above the knee (skirt hem should be within two inches of the ground when properly adjusted at the waist and kneeling on a level surface). Skirts should be worn at the waist.

**Girls' Slacks:** Navy blue uniform dress slacks are available at Dennis Uniform. Slacks should not be baggy nor tight fitting. No patch pockets, extra zippers or seams, and no hip huggers, bell-bottoms, or faddish slacks. The slacks should have belt loops and an appropriate plain, solid, black or dark brown belt must be worn. Dress slacks should be worn at the waist. During hot weather months (August - October and March - May) navy blue walking shorts with appropriate belt may be worn. Shorts must be worn at the waist and should hang just above the knee but not below, and should not be tight fitting or excessively baggy.

**Girls' Shirts:** Solid white knit polo shirts (two- or three-button, with or without a breast pocket--no logos, except the applicable Tempe Prep logo) or white or light blue oxford button-down dress shirts, short or long sleeve. Shirts must always be tucked in so that the waistband of the skirt, pants or shorts is visible. Female athletes may wear 'Lady Knights' blouses on their game days. Seniors may wear solid, red, polo-style shirts on Friday, and may also wear at any time an approved blue blazer.

**Girls' Footwear:** Black or dark brown solid-colored, low-heeled, low-soled or flat, leather loafers or dress shoes with nylons, blue tights, or solid color navy blue or white socks. Socks must be visible above the shoe. No open-toed or open-heeled shoes or sandals. Sneakers, tennis or jogging shoes will be permitted only during athletic activities.

**Girls' Jewelry:** Girls may wear one pair of short earrings. ("Short" means that the earrings should not hang more than one-half inch below the ear lobe.) Large hoops or other dangling or distracting earrings are not permitted. (Loops are not to be larger than the size of a nickel.) No nose-rings or other body-piercing jewelry except earrings will be permitted. One wrist bracelet, one watch, two rings and one small necklace are permissible. Only simple, fine-gauged, 16 to 20 inch, silver or gold chain necklaces (with or without a pendant) are permitted. Pendants should not be large or elaborate; they should be not much larger than an inch or so in length, width, or diameter. No chokers, beaded necklaces (colored or otherwise), shells, or large or elaborate chain-link may be worn. All jewelry must be tasteful, and jewelry should not be distracting or dangerous. Students may appeal to the Headmaster for permission to wear items of religious significance, but if physically possible, such items should be worn underneath clothing.

**Girls' Makeup:** Makeup is permitted, but only if it is applied tastefully and in moderation. Heavily lined eyes or gaudy lipstick, glitter or white-powdered faces will not be permitted. Fingernails should not be excessively long or painted garishly. Fingernails may only be painted in shades of red or pink and colors matching one's skin tone. Tasteful French manicures are acceptable. No shades of blue, orange, purple, green, yellow, or black are permissible, nor are glittered, speckled or patterned nail polish.

**Girls' Hair:** Should be neatly combed or styled. No shaved heads. Neat bows, barrettes, headbands and "scrunchies" are permissible. Hair should not be arranged or colored so as to draw undue attention to the student. Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color. Radical changes in hair color during the school year are unacceptable.

Girls' Headwear: Hats, bandannas, and sunglasses will not be permitted indoors and must be stored in student lockers.

Girls' Outer Wear: Jackets, sweatshirts and sweaters may be worn to school for warmth, but must be free of logos, except the applicable Tempe Prep logo, and advertisements. Sweatshirts and jackets worn to and from school must be stored in lockers during classes and between classes, other than during the lunch period. A solid, navy blue sweater in the uniform colors, or the approved Tempe Prep crew-neck sweatshirt (available through Dennis Uniform) may be worn in the classroom. Tempe Prep issued athletic letter jackets or sweaters may also be worn in the classroom.

No tattoos, temporary or permanent. This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin. No oversized or baggy clothing will be permitted.

### **Dress Code for Special Events**

There are specific, semi-formal dress requirements for special events, including periodic fine arts concerts, the all-school award ceremony, and graduation.

The semi-formal dress code for young men is: dress slacks (no jeans or patched pocket pants), a dress shirt, dress socks, dress shoes. No dyed hair. Hair should be trimmed appropriately.

The semi-formal dress code for young ladies is: modest length skirts or dresses (no shorter than the uniform skirt); no bare midriffs; no strapless, spaghetti, or tank tops. Girls should wear dress shoes. No flip-flops. No dyed hair.

There is also a specific, athletic dress code for Athletic Field Day.