

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Brighten Academy Charter School has adopted this dress code to promote an educational atmosphere that minimizes distractions, maximizes learning, and teaches students the importance of dressing for success. Students' dress should reflect self-respect and pride in their school.

Students are expected to follow this dress code whenever they are on campus during school hours or when attending school-related activities (field trips).

It is a violation of the dress code to wear clothing that reveals a student's underwear, midriff, lower back, upper thigh, or cleavage at any time (including when leaning over or raising the arms). Clothing may NOT be excessively baggy, dirty, sloppy, or tight (form-fitting).

The focus of this dress code is on modesty, neatness, cleanliness, and good taste, which must be observed in addition to the specific requirements set forth below. The school administration will provide the final determination as to whether a specific outfit or article of clothing is acceptable under those standards.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Shirts

1. Shirts must be solid red, white, or navy blue in color.
2. Shirts may have a Brighten logo or another logo that is no more than two inches high and three inches wide.
3. The following styles may be worn:
 - a. Oxford button down
 - b. Golf or polo (long or short sleeved)
 - c. Turtlenecks
 - d. Crew neck t-shirt with Brighten logo purchased through school approved vendor
4. Additional adornments (lace, rhinestones, etc.) are not permitted.
5. Oxfords, golf, and polo shirts must be buttoned all the way up except for the top button.
6. Exterior shirts must be long enough to cover the waist (midriff).
7. Shirts must be the proper size for the student wearing them. Shirts may not be form-fitting nor loose enough to show cleavage, chest, or shoulders.
8. Undershirts worn under an exterior shirt must not be visible from the bottom or arms of the shirt and must be tucked in as necessary so they will not be visible. Long sleeve crew neck style shirts may be worn under a collared shirt (which meets dress code requirements).

9. Exterior shirts must not be pinned, rolled, knotted, or otherwise worn to expose garments worn underneath the exterior shirt, with the exception of having collars (in the specified solid colors) visible under a sweater.

Pants and Skirts

1. The following styles are acceptable for boys or girls:
 - a. Slacks
 - b. Shorts
2. The following styles are acceptable for girls:
 - a. Capri pants
 - b. Skirts
 - c. Skorts
 - d. Jumpers
 - e. Dresses
3. Acceptable colors are solid navy blue or khaki.
4. Logos that are no more than two inches high and three inches wide are permitted.
5. All of the garments listed above must be worn at the waist and must extend down to at least two inches from the top of the knee cap.
6. Additional adornments (lace, rhinestones, etc.) are not permitted.
7. Slacks may not be rolled up.
8. Excessively baggy pants and shorts are not permitted.

Sweaters

1. Sweaters must be solid red, white, or navy blue in color.
2. V-neck or short-sleeve sweaters (e.g., golf sweaters or sweater vests) are permitted if worn over a shirt that meets the requirements set forth above.
3. Logos that are no more than two inches high and three inches wide are permitted.

Coats / Jackets

1. All coats and jackets must be solid red, white, or navy blue in color.
2. Coats and jackets may have logos that are no more than two inches high and three inches wide.
3. Coats and jackets may not be worn in lieu of shirts.

Shoes

1. Shoes must be predominantly white, navy blue, black, gray, or brown in color.
2. The following shoe styles are acceptable:
 - a. Tennis Shoes
 - b. Athletic Footwear
 - c. Boots
 - d. Loafers
 - e. Closed toe shoes with less than a one inch heel
3. Shoes may have a manufacturer's logo and name
4. Shoes may have a second color for accents or trim, provided one of the colors listed above is the predominant color.
5. Bedroom shoes and slippers may NOT be worn unless permission is given to wear them on a special-dress day.
6. Students are required to wear athletic shoes during Physical Education or Dance and Movement classes.
7. Students in grades 6-8 may wear sandals with back straps.
8. Flip flops are not permitted.

Hair

1. Hair must be reasonably neat and clean.
2. Hair must appear natural in color.
3. Hairstyles (Mohawks, rat tails, etc.) and adornments (bows, barrettes, etc.) must not be distracting to the individual student or those around him or her.

Accessories

1. Socks, tights, and leggings must be red, white, navy blue, black, or gray in color.
2. Socks, tights, and leggings may be solid in color OR incorporate up to three of the preceding colors in a plaid or argyle pattern.
3. Hats may not be worn indoors unless specifically authorized by the administration for special-dress days.

Jewelry

1. Students (male or female) are permitted to wear earrings in one or both ears. Earrings (studs, bars, chains) may not be visible in any other part of the body other than the ear. Students are not permitted to wear more than 2 earrings in each ear.
2. Students may not wear chains protruding from pants pockets or any other area.
3. Students may not wear jewelry that makes excessive noise or that is distracting to others. Jewelry is to remain modest.
4. Neither Brighten Academy nor its staff is responsible for jewelry that is lost or stolen.

SPECIAL DAYS AND EVENTS

On certain days, students may (but are not required) to wear clothing that is not solid in color and/or that incorporates colors other than those set forth in the Basic Requirements. However, other than the exceptions set forth below or specifically authorized by the school administration, students must comply with the Basic Requirements of the Dress Code whenever they are on campus during school hours or attending school-related activities.

Spirit Day (every Monday)

On Mondays, students may wear any apparel that has the Brighten Academy logo OR shirts that are purchased for or obtained by participation in any fundraiser and special event sponsored by the school (e.g., Relay for Life, Field Day, etc.).

Middle school students (grades 6-8) also may wear jeans on Monday, provided they are free from holes, tears, or fraying and otherwise comply with the Dress Code requirements for pants.

Fashionable Friday (every Friday unless otherwise notified in advance)

Students may “dress down” on Fridays; meaning that they may wear clothing that is not solid in color and/or that incorporates colors other than those specified in the Basic Requirements. Student also may wear jeans on Fridays, provided they are free from holes, tears, or fraying and otherwise comply with the Dress Code requirements for pants.

Middle school students (grades 7 and 8) must earn the “privilege” of Fashionable Friday by having no demerits for the week and all assignments must be current. If the privilege is not earned, the student will be required to adhere to the school’s uniform dress code.

Seven C’s Shirts (Anytime)

Seven C’s t-shirts (which are predominately green in color) are awarded to students who, in the opinion of the school staff and administration, have demonstrated achievement in each of the following categories: (1) character; (2) commitment; (3) critical thinking; (4) creativity; (5) curiosity; (6) community; and (7) culture. This is a special honor. As a result, Seven C’s t-shirts may be worn at any time by the students who have earned them.

School Dances (by written announcement)

Students who attend school-sponsored dances may wear clothing that is not solid in color and/or that incorporates colors other than those specified in the Basic Requirements. Students may also wear non-crew neck collars that extend no more than two inches from the base of the neck, provided such collars do not expose lingerie or cleavage. Strapless dresses or shirts are not acceptable dress for any school event. Students wearing clothing that does not meet the Dress Code requirements may be asked to leave.

If there are any questions about the acceptability of an outfit, students may bring the outfit to school for consultation with the administration.

Costume-Theme Days (by written announcement)

On costume-theme days, students are invited to wear clothing according to a specific costume theme (e.g., pirates, pajamas, book characters). Students who choose to participate on these days must wear costumes that clearly and obviously follow the designated theme. For example, a t-shirt and jeans with an eye-patch is not a pirate costume, just as a t-shirt and jeans with a teddy bear are not pajamas. Scary masks (e.g., skulls, flesh wounds, etc.) are not permitted as part of student costumes. Students who are not obviously dressed according to the costume theme must wear clothing that otherwise meets the Dress Code requirements.

Field Trips and Other Special Events (by written announcement)

The administration and staff may authorize exceptions to the Basic Requirements of the Dress Code during field trips and other events on a case by case basis.

Clothes Closet

Brighten Academy has a Clothes Closet of FREE clothing that is available to all students on a first-come, first-serve basis. Clothing items are donated by parents, staff, and community members. Parents may access the Clothes Closet by contacting the office for an appointment.

Dress Code Violations

When a student is in violation of the Dress Code, school personnel will generally call his or her parent(s) and ask for an acceptable outfit to be brought to school.

Dress code violations also will be addressed as a disciplinary matter. Two documented Dress Code violations will constitute a disciplinary referral. For additional information, please refer to the Brighten Academy Handbook policy on student discipline.

UNSURE?

Students or parents who are unsure whether a specific outfit or article of clothing complies with this policy should ask the team leader or an administrator for clarification BEFORE the student chooses to wear the outfit or item to school.

The administration will make final determinations with regard to compliance with this policy, including but not limited to issues of modesty, neatness, cleanliness, natural hair colors, and overall acceptable appearance.