



MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL DRESS CODE 2024-2025

The purpose of a dress code and of uniforms at Harding Academy is to guide students to dress neatly and modestly and to create a climate that focuses on students' spiritual, academic, and personal growth rather than on fashion or popularity. All parents are expected to be the primary enforcers of dress code policy. Parents are expected to monitor what their children wear to school in a manner consistent with the school's policies. When parents fail to do so, teachers and administrators spend time correcting problems that could have been addressed at home. This is a distraction from learning and can be avoided with teamwork between home and school. While it is impossible to name every possible dress code issue that might come up, the following guidelines are given to help parents and students have an idea of the school's expectations.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Students must enter and exit the building each day adhering to the following guidelines:

- Unless otherwise specified, all clothing items must come from Dennis Uniforms. The uniform chart will show which items must come from Dennis and which may come from any vendor.
- All clothing must be clean, must fit properly, and must be in good repair.
- Khaki pants may be purchased from any vendor but must look like the ones that come from Dennis. Acceptable khakis must not be cut like jeans. They must fit at the waist, not ride below the waist and must be the traditional khaki color similar to that of Dennis. No joggers or cargo pants are allowed.
- Writing or drawing on the skin, on the shoes, or on uniform pieces is not permitted.
- Tattoos, real or fake, that are visible during the school day are not permitted.
- Undergarments should not be visible.
- There will be special school days when students will be permitted to wear clothing other than uniforms. On these occasions (Homecoming Week, for example), clothing will be expected to be appropriate. Clothing that is short, revealing, tight, or otherwise immodest is not acceptable.
- Fridays are designated as Spirit Days. Students may wear any Harding-logo t-shirt or sweatshirt (team, club, event) that says "Harding" on it, that is in good repair, and that is worn with the normal uniform skirts, khaki pants, or modest jeans in good repair, approved Harding outerwear, and uniform shoes. Shirts do not have to be tucked in.

Outerwear:

- The following outerwear may be worn into classrooms or through the halls: jackets from Dennis; Harding letter jackets; Harding team or club jacket in school colors.
- Every student must wear a collared uniform shirt under jackets, sweatshirts, and sweaters.
- Hats, bandanas, hoods, and caps may not be worn indoors.
- Any outerwear that is specially made to be worn during the school day must be approved. All wording and logos must be approved by the communications department.
- Blankets are not considered outerwear and cannot be brought to school.

Shoes and socks:

- Shoes must be low heel (flats), closed-heel, and closed toe. Shoes must be worn properly on the foot. Moccasins, house shoes, and boots are not permitted.
- Socks are required for both boys and girls. The color, pattern, or style of socks is not dictated.

Hair:

- Hair must be clean and neatly styled and not extreme or distracting to the learning environment. Unnatural hair coloring, mohawks, long sideburns, shaved heads, or artwork/designs cut into the hair or eyebrows, and overly large or tall hairstyles are not allowed.
- Hair must be out of the eyes. Hair may be pulled back with a headband or worn in a bun, ponytail, or braid(s) with appropriate hair accessories: only Harding plaid, navy, red, white, black, or gray.

Specific to Boys:

- Boys' shirts must be tucked in. Belts are required.
- Middle school boys must be clean shaven. Upper school boys are allowed to have facial hair as long as it is neatly trimmed and close to the face.
- Boys may not wear earrings during the school day, nor may they wear spacers or band-aids over earrings. Body piercings should not be visible.
- Boys may not wear makeup either during the school day or at extracurricular events.

Specific to Girls:

- Girls may wear opaque tights or full-length leggings. Girls tights or leggings may not be worn as pants. Tights and leggings may be solid navy, black, or gray.
- Skirts must be no more than 3" above the kneecap, both front and back, whether a girl is standing, sitting, or bending. Shorts may not be visible outside of the skirt.
- Jewelry should be minimal and non distracting. Girls may wear small pieces of jewelry including wristwatches, small earrings (maximum of two per ear), and small necklaces. A small nose stud is allowed for girls in grades 9-12; no other facial piercings are permitted.

Dress Code Outside of School Hours:

- Students are not required to wear uniforms at co-curricular activities (sports events, performances, competitions, and any other extracurricular activity) unless uniforms are specified. During these times, students must dress in appropriate attire that reflects Harding's values and promotes a respectful image.
 - Clothing should be neat, clean, and free of rips or tears.
 - No revealing attire, such as short shorts, crop tops, or excessively tight clothing.
 - Clothing should not display inappropriate or offensive language, graphics, or images.
- Students are expected to adhere to these guidelines during all school functions and when representing Harding in any capacity. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

CONSEQUENCES OF DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

The school administration reserves the right to make any final judgements regarding school dress and student appearance. The parent of a student who is in violation of the dress code policy may be required either to take the student home to get appropriate attire or to bring appropriate attire to the school. Students who are not in dress code will be removed from class until they are in dress code. Any class time missed due to being out of dress code will be marked unexcused.

1st-3rd Offense	Removed from class; Warning recorded in FACTS
4th Offense	Removed from class; Level 1 recorded in FACTS; Detention
5th Offense	Removed from class; Level 1 recorded in FACTS; Detention; Parent meeting
6th Offense	Remove from class; Level 2 recorded in FACTS; Detention
7th + Offense	Removed from class, Level 2 recorded in FACTS; Parent meeting

UNIFORM PURCHASING GUIDELINES

Items for Girls	Dennis	Any Vendor
Plaid pleated skirt	X	
Harding polo shirt (red or navy, long or short sleeves)	X	
Socks or tights (must be visible and matching)		X
Khaki pants		X
Bike shorts (black, navy)		X
Hair accessories (headband, scrunchy, bow, barrette, etc.)	X	X
Belt (black or brown leather)		X
Tights (solid black, navy, or gray heavy weight)		X
Leggings: full-length (solid black, navy, or gray heavy weight)		X
Navy microfleece jacket	X	
Navy wind anorak jacket	X	
Navy quarter zip sweatshirt	X	

Items for Boys	Dennis	Any Vendor
Khaki pants		X
Harding polo shirt (red or navy, long or short sleeves)	X	
Socks (must be visible and matching)		X
Belt (black or brown leather)		X
Navy microfleece jacket	X	
Navy wind anorak jacket	X	
Navy quarter zip sweatshirt	X	

	Dennis	Any Vendor
Optional for Seniors Only (boys and girls)		
Navy and white striped polo shirt		***