

Aquinas High/Middle School

2024-25 Dress Code

The Purpose of the Dress Code at Aquinas High School:

First, it supports the school's mission by seeking to erase divisions that might be apparent in settings without a dress code. For instance, our students come to us from a wide range of socioeconomic circumstances and are hardly monolithic; therefore, the dress code serves as one type of equalizer for our students so they can focus on their faith and academic studies.

Secondly, the dress code supports the school's mission by assisting in their development toward career readiness. The dress code is intended to reflect the professional appearance that one would expect in the workplace. Similarly, many careers have dress codes and regulations for the sake of the profession: for example, doctors, nurses, lawyers, firefighters, police officers, military personnel, research professionals, and hospitality professionals are all expected to adhere to particular dress and appearance standards. The Aquinas Dress Code is intended to help students become habituated to such structures prior to their entrance into their chosen profession.

In conclusion, we at Aquinas High School are proud to be a representative of our school. This carries with it a responsibility to present ourselves in a manner fitting our dignity as people who "belong to the Lord." Our Students are the first ones to be seen by visitors when they come onto our campus. Therefore, it is expected that our students will always be dressed correctly and proudly according to our dress code. It is one of the ways we demonstrate a unifying faith in Christ as well as a unity of belief in the mission of Aquinas Catholic Schools.

The purpose of the dress code is to ensure that the students have a clean, well-groomed, modest and neat appearance. Students are to comply with the dress code throughout the school day, in the building, and on field trips unless specifically excused by administration. **The administration reserves the right to determine whether or not a student's appearance is acceptable.** Violations of the dress code may result in detention or may require a student to be sent home to change. Students are encouraged to keep an extra dress-code top and pants in their lockers in case of emergencies, so students will not miss valuable class time, and parents won't have to make an extra trip to school. Students will be counted as unexcused during the time out of school, and no credit will be granted during the time of absence. Detentions will be issued for each violation. On the third dress-code violation, the student will be placed on in-school suspension until parents bring a change of clothes. This will be done for each violation until the end of the semester.

School Dances (homecoming, prom, etc.):

Male - expectations are semi-formal attire required = Suit or Tuxedo, No Shorts, Jeans or sweatpants! Appropriate undergarments should be worn and not seen. Your dress shirt must remain on at all times.

Female – Semi-formal attire is required = Personal style is encouraged but dresses should be modest and respect the dignity of the body and the environment of a Catholic School. Appropriate undergarments should be worn and not seen. Dresses/skirts should fit appropriately and be past the fingertip in length or longer and no front or side cleavage showing.

What you may wear on a regular School Day

- Any solid-colored polo with a collar, buttons, and sleeves.
- Any solid-colored neutral or dark dress pant. No denim; No Leggings/Jeggings/Sweatpants/Denim. Pants must fit appropriately.
- Any tennis/dress shoes firmly attached to the foot. (No sandals, slippers or crocs are allowed)
- Any solid-colored or Aquinas logo Crewneck sweatshirt/sweater over your polo. **No Hooded Sweatshirts**
- During 1st and 4th Quarter knee length dress shorts are allowed (**except on mass days**).

What you may wear on a Spirit Day

- Any appropriate Aquinas top, hooded Aquinas sweatshirts WILL be allowed on these days only.
- Any clean solid-colored denim pants with no holes or tears or regular school pants.
- Any shoes firmly attached to the foot (No sandals, slippers or crocs are allowed)

Your Hair

- Clean natural colored hair that should not cover the eyes or face.
- Boys must have it cut above the collar in back, above the ears and above the eyebrows.

Your Face

- Boys clean shaven
- Girls subtle colored make-up

General School Guidelines on any School Day

- Piercings are restricted to ears only and should not be excessive.
- No hairstyles that are a distraction or hair that covers your eyes or face. No Mohawks, no mullets spiked hair, unnatural colorings or designs
- No tattoos displayed in school or at any Aquinas function, whether at home or away
- No hats or head gear in school
- No leggings, jeggings, sweatpants, athletic pants/shorts, or wind pants
- No open shoulder tops
- No stretch, spandex, or tight clothing
- No political signs/logos, commercial signs/logos, or group signs/logos
- No shells, sheer or see-thru materials
- No mustaches, beards, or long sideburns
- No chains or long ropes
- No beachwear
- No strapless or backless clothing
- **Hooded Sweatshirts are no longer allowed during regular dress days. Aquinas hooded sweatshirts are allowed on spirit days only**
- No jacket/vest during the school day, unless approved by administration
- Clothing, jewelry, and or grooming must not be a distraction, a potential danger/ disruptive to the learning environment.