



| <i>The Classical Academy</i> | <i>Policies and Procedures</i> |
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| Policy Name: | TCA Board Philosophy Regarding Student Attire |
| Policy Number: | JICA-TCA-B |
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TCA BOARD PHILOSOPHY ON STUDENT ATTIRE

A core value that unifies TCA is our commitment to adopt parameters involving student attire. This Board policy explains the values and philosophy behind the requirement for an age-appropriate uniform/dress code. The TCA Board recognizes that as students develop into adults, adolescents often adopt grooming, fashion, and behaviors to craft a personal identity. TCA’s student dress code is both intrinsically meaningful and symbolic of being in the TCA community. Living out the dress code should enable students to pursue modesty and promote the value of inner character rather than focusing on outer appearance. At TCA, the student dress code helps us maintain our focus on the work of learning and performing.

Board philosophical expectations for TCA students’ Elementary Uniform and Secondary Dress Code Policies:

1. Increase ease of enforcement and make TCA’s dress code policy easy to understand:
 - a. A uniform policy at the elementary level and a dress code policy at the secondary level that are easy for students to self-judge compliance and for teachers to make an initial assessment of compliance will both reduce student-teacher disagreements and minimize time spent on initial assessment.
 - b. Administration should realize teacher and staff time will be required to assess and enforce a policy that meets the goals of this board policy, instead of solely looking at staff involvement as a burden.
 - c. Interactions between staff, students, and parents at all levels of enforcement should reflect civility and respect consistent with TCA Core Values and be characterized by positive, encouraging, respectful conversations that are focused on the specifics of the violation, the intent of the policy, and the positive character development of the student.
2. Build student character from Kindergarten through High School:
 - a. Having students state they believe they are in compliance builds positive ownership as opposed to being monitored by teachers who are trying to “catch them.”
 - b. At the secondary level, the dress code should allow for increased personal ownership with natural consequences that are used as expected learning moments as students test boundaries and learn from their mistakes.
 - c. In almost all future college and career settings, our students will be introduced to appearance standards.

3. Honor TCA's commitment to families:
 - a. TCA's founders originally established a modest, simple, traditional dress code. TCA's policy should stay true to our history and our commitment to more identifiable, standardized attire with limited options, which diminishes room for interpretation and promotes a positive relational culture.
 - b. Quick identification of strangers on campus and identification of TCA students on field trips becomes easier and is especially important when monitoring elementary students off school grounds.
 - c. Any substantial changes to the dress code should account for the impact on family budgets and clothing availability. Policy changes that will significantly reduce options will be communicated in a timely manner so that families do not waste money on clothes that can no longer be worn at school.
4. Promote unity among students, build school identity, and promote consistency across TCA campuses:
 - a. What sets our students apart is their membership in the unique community of TCA. One way we promote our culture is by affirming a distinct identity made up of our values, our actions, our shared stories, and our appearance. Being a student at TCA means being part of a classical, scholarly, values-oriented community, so we ask our students to dress the part.
 - b. A well-designed dress code will soften the dividing lines, so students are more likely to be friends with students in different groups. Students will be more united and find their identity as TCA students, which can also lead to increased school pride. This includes sports and activity attire that promotes schoolwide esprit de corps.
5. Adopt a graduated age-appropriate dress code across K-12:
 - a. The same basic principles regarding dress with increasing freedoms and responsibilities from elementary through secondary are age appropriate:
 - i. A simple straightforward K-6 uniform policy matches well with students at this development stage when parents control most of the dress decisions.
 - ii. A secondary dress code allows for more options along with increased personal ownership with natural consequences. Some areas might have wide freedoms (e.g., shoes).
 - b. The support of and reaction to the TCA age-appropriate uniform/dress code policies are often the first visible indicators of how well parents, students and staff are aligned with and living within TCA policies.
6. The TCA Board understands and values the importance of student education, while also recognizing the importance of conforming to the requirements of the TCA Student Uniform/Dress Code policies (both elementary and secondary). As such, the TCA Board supports the school administration in its implementation and enforcement of the TCA Student Uniform/Dress Code policies.

Policy Revision History

| Date | Revision Details | Revised By |
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| 5/30/2013 | Created new Board Policy. | Board Clerk |
| 8/8/2016 | Completed annual review. Changes made to clarify Board philosophy. | TCA Board of Directors |
| 5/13/2019 | Completed annual review. Changes made to correct grammar. | Board Governance Committee with approval by TCA Board of Directors |
| 5/10/2021 | Bi-annual review. No changes. | Board Governance Committee with approval by TCA Board of Directorsw. |
| 3/13/23 | No changes. | Board Governance Committee with approval by TCA Board of Directors |