

## UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

ACA has 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 the school community. It is also a visible signature of ACA to the larger community, an indicator of the unity and pride of purpose. This is one of the most important functions 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.

The uniform is the basis of a dress code with a "professional," business-like standard. 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 student is deemed to be wearing inappropriate attire, the parent/guardian 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. Good judgment exercised at home will be a learning activity for the student 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. The Headmaster may make specific exceptions to the dress code, as demanded by particular religious customs.

If a student insists on rebelling by trying to beat the dress code, it will quickly become obvious to the faculty and Headmaster. ACA's desire is not to squash students' individuality, but to secure their commitment to a community of learners whose purpose, while at school, is not faddish coolness, or outlandishness, but scholarship and character development. ACA asks not only for the student's commitment to this concept, but for the parent/guardian's as well. The uniform and dress code of ACA supports and reinforces our academic goals. The uniform assists ACA in staying focused on the true individuality offered by healthy dialogue and the development of the life of the mind for each student.

Other than the dress code requirements for school, 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 Semi-Formal Event Dress Code for an exact definition of how ACA defines "semi-formal" attire.

Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus (including the parking lot) during a school day. This means arriving on campus fully in uniform and leaving campus fully in uniform (correct shoes, shirts tucked in, etc.). Students may only change out of uniform after school with teacher/coach permission to participate in an approved curricular or extracurricular activity that requires an immediate change in dress.

Uniforms are available for purchase at Dennis Uniforms and Anton Uniforms

### Bottoms:

- Navy blue dress slacks or shorts with black/brown dress belt (belts are optional for K-1)
- Girls may wear school navy skort, skirt, jumper (from vendor)
- Dark spandex shorts must be worn under the skirt and jumper

### Tops:

- White/Baby Blue short or long sleeved polo with school crest
- Navy Blue cardigan with crest- (from vendor)
- Navy Blue knit jacket with crest (from vendor)

### Footwear:

- Solid White/Black **athletic shoes**- no additional colors on sole or laces
- Ankle or Knee-High socks in Navy, Black or White
- Girls may wear navy tights or leggings

### Outerwear:

- Jackets without a school crest can be worn to school and at recess but must be free of logos and messages, and cannot be worn in the classroom.

### Accessories:

- One bracelet, one pair of small earrings, and one simple watch are allowed. Smart watches are not allowed.
- Hair accessories should be small and match the uniform

#### Hair

- Hair must be a natural color, clean, neat, styled, and out of the face.