

# Dress Code 2017-18

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### ***Why change the dress code policy?***

Dress code implementation is a perennial challenge in most schools, but our new policy simplifies the dress code, aiding students in knowing what is appropriate and aiding faculty in consistent enforcement. The new dress code's unifying appearance fosters school pride and school spirit. It also displays a professionalism that reflects AAI's reputation for excellence and academic quality.

### ***Will this be expensive?***

No. In fact, it is possible that this change will save families money. Students may either purchase polo shirts through the school's reasonably-priced vendor or purchase their own from any source and add the school logo. Many of the pants and jeans that students currently own will be suitable and meet dress code guidelines.

### ***Is this new dress code a punishment?***

Not at all. We believe this is a positive step that will represent the students and the school well. Its clarity and simplicity will aid in consistent, equitable enforcement. In addition, we believe that it will offer a welcome relief from real or perceived "brand competition" among students.

### ***How will this impact unity and school pride?***

This dress code adjustment offers some excellent benefits for bolstering school spirit and pride in the excellent education we have here at AAI. In the way that members of a sports team revel in their uniforms, and in the way that fans wear their favorite teams' jerseys, possessing the commonality of a school logo fosters unity and school pride, both on and off campus.

### ***Will students still have the freedom to make choices in selecting their clothing?***

Yes, students will be able to express their individuality in two general areas. First, students will be given school-wide dress down days periodically where they will have a broader latitude in their choices. Secondly, even within the new dress code there will be five colors of polo shirts to choose from, and students may choose their own pants within certain guidelines. Appropriate accessories will continue to be permitted.

### ***Will we be losing our US identity?***

Many private schools in the United States use uniforms or formal dress codes and public schools are trending towards uniforms. Our new dress code is not quite a uniform, but it is fairly representative of a US prep school dress code, though it is less stringent and allows for more individuality.

### ***How was this decision made?***

Over the course of this past year, the administration worked with the faculty to determine the most significant challenges in the existing dress code. They then worked together to create a rough draft of a dress code that sought to minimize those challenges. Students were informally questioned on the need for a dress code change and what that could look like. The Parent Committee Representatives were also given the chance to respond to a completed draft in an open forum, where they engaged in a healthy discussion with the faculty and administration. After multiple revisions throughout this process, the school's leadership team received the final approval from both the outgoing and incoming directors to implement the new dress code.