



## Dress Code Policy for Grades 9-12

### Overview

The dress code policy for Unity High carries significant importance to address several critical aspects that contribute to a positive and productive educational environment. Our three key reasons for maintaining a dress code are as follows:

1. **Community Establishment:** A dress code policy plays a crucial role in fostering a sense of community and unity among students, faculty, and staff. When everyone adheres to a common dress standard, it promotes a cohesive identity and mutual respect within the school community. This unity is essential, especially with the presence of multiple schools in the area, including a new high school, as it distinguishes Unity and strengthens its identity.
2. **Enhanced Safety Measures:** Implementing a dress code policy serves as a practical safety measure. By standardizing attire, it becomes easier for staff to quickly identify individuals who belong on campus versus those who do not. This helps to maintain a safe environment during students' morning arrival and afternoon departure. This is especially important for the number of neighboring high schools in the community.
3. **Professionalizing the School Environment:** A well-defined dress code contributes to a professional atmosphere conducive to learning. It sets a tone in which the focus is on academic excellence and prepares students for future professional settings. Moreover, when students dress with a sense of purpose and educational success, it positively influences their behavior and mindset towards education, enhancing overall school culture.

Adopting and effectively implementing a dress code policy at Unity High not only enhances safety and a sense of community but also contributes to the long-term goal of fully preparing our students for success in college and their respective careers. We recognize that tastes vary, as do opinions concerning appropriateness of dress, UPHS is responsible for determining guidelines that will promote a safe school environment, academic achievement, and good school citizenship.

## UPHS Dress Code Defined

### Tops:

- It is **mandatory** that an official Unity top is worn in the spirit of school pride and in being united in our collective focus on learning.
- Official is defined as a top (T-Shirt, Polos, or Crewneck) purchased from an approved vendor or distributed by the school. *(There will be predetermined days where students and staff will show their school PRIDE by collectively wearing an official Unity top. On these occasions, the expectation is that all students and staff participate.)*
- Students may also purchase Unity patches to add to plain tops or sweaters that cover their **entire** torso and shoulders.
- Students may not wear outerwear over their Unity top. Jackets and non-Unity hoodies **must** be stored in lockers during the day.

### Bottoms:

- Student bottoms must be long enough that the hem hits the top of the knee, shin, or ankle.
- Bottoms must properly fit and be worn at the waist. A belt must be worn if bottoms are unable to fit at the waist without sagging.
- Bottoms **may not** have rips or tears.
- Bottoms **may not** be leggings, tights, catsuits/bodysuits, basketball shorts or display undergarments.

### Shoes:

- All shoes must have backs, be closed-toed, and low heeled.
- Sandals, flip-flops, and athletic slides **ARE NOT** permitted (worn with or without socks).
- Crocs **ARE** permitted so long as the backstrap is raised behind the ankle at all times.
- For reasons related to safety, the policy for shoes will apply for all dress down days and spirit days.

### Facial Covering:

- Students **are not permitted** to wear any facial covering that is not for medical use; all other facial coverings, like shiesties, will be confiscated and returned to a parent.

### School-wide Special Events, Activities, and Classroom Presentations:

- Dress code may be different for special events including but not limited to: game days, school dances, Spirit Weeks, Field Days, dress-down days, etc.
- Students and parents will be alerted in writing of any dress code changes prior to any special events.

## Responsibilities of Stakeholders

### Arrivals Team:

- Upon entry into the building, students will show they are in dress code to arrivals staff.
- If a student is found to be not aligned with the dress code, the Dean of Students or another designated member of the Arrival Team will check-in with the student to address the misalignment immediately.
- The student may have to wait in the Dean's office until a parent/guardian brings new attire or the student completes a Loaner Contract to receive a Unity top for the day.

**Dean of Students:**

- If a student is found to not be aligned with the dress code, a Dean of Students will check-in with the student to address the issue immediately.
- The student may have to wait in the Dean's office until a parent/guardian brings new attire or the student will complete a loaner contract to receive a Unity top for the day.

**Students:**

- Students must remain in dress code for the entire school day and as long as they are in the building (*this excludes athletic sports and enrichment clubs where applicable*).
- Students should arrive at the entrance of the school building dressed in proper attire as determined above.
- If a student is not in dress code, a Dean of Students will check-in with the student to address the issue immediately. The student may have to wait in the Dean's office until a parent/guardian brings new attire or the student will complete a loaner contract to receive a Unity top for the day.

**Corrective Actions & Interventions**

- Caregiver outreach (In-Person/Virtual/Phone)
- Student required to correct issue in the moment
- Multiple infractions may result in detention, in-school suspension and caregiver meeting