

NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Home of the Phoenix

STUDENT DRESS CODE

2026–2027 School Year • A Guide for Families

Students may express themselves freely through what they wear, within a framework of professionalism, modesty, and safety. Our dress code is designed to keep students safe, minimize distractions from learning, and prepare young people for the expectations of public and professional life.

Please use the guide below when shopping and when helping your child get ready in the morning. A few minutes of planning at home prevents missed instruction time during the school day.

At a Glance: Allowed vs. Not Allowed

ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED
✓ All colors, materials, and patterns (except bandana print) ✓ Head coverings worn for religious purposes ✓ Sweatshirts, sweaters, light jackets, and denim ✓ Clothing that fully covers the chest, stomach, and buttocks ✓ Bottoms that are knee-length or longer ✓ Closed, hard-soled shoes with a fixed back (see Footwear)	✗ Pajamas, crop tops, and tank tops ✗ Ripped, torn, or shredded clothing ✗ Hats or hoods worn indoors ✗ Long coats worn inside the building ✗ Face coverings (medical masks are permitted) ✗ Items with hate speech, drug, gang, or sexual content ✗ Crocs, slides, flip flops, and any backless or open shoes (see Footwear) ✗ Any disruptive or unsafe attire

Footwear (Please Read Carefully)

Safe, supportive footwear is required every day. Students move constantly throughout our building, climbing stairs, participating in physical education and movement classes, walking to and from buses, and taking part in arts activities such as dance, theater, and visual art. Open or backless shoes create a real and frequent risk of trips, falls, stubbed toes, and injuries.

For these safety reasons, the following footwear rules are in effect for all students:

Required Footwear

- **Closed-toe, hard-soled shoes with a fixed, enclosed back** (for example, sneakers, athletic shoes, loafers, or dress shoes that fully enclose the foot).
- The shoe must securely stay on the foot during walking, stairs, and physical activity.

Not Permitted

Students are not permitted to wear Crocs, or any shoe that does not have a back or is not fully enclosed. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Crocs of any style (including those worn in “sport mode” or with the heel strap)
- Nike slides and all other brands of athletic or slip-on slides
- Ugg slides and any backless Ugg or slipper-style footwear
- Flip flops and thong sandals
- Open-back clogs, mules, and slip-on shoes without a fixed back
- Open-toe sandals and any sandal without a secured back strap
- Slippers or any soft-soled house shoes

Quick rule for families

If a shoe does not fully enclose the foot AND have a solid back that keeps it firmly on the foot, it is not allowed at school. A heel strap alone (as on Crocs in sport mode) does NOT meet this requirement. The shoe must have a true enclosed back.

When in doubt, send your child in sneakers. Sneakers are always a safe choice.

Tops, Bottoms & Coverage

Clothing should fully cover the chest, stomach, and buttocks at all times, including when a student is seated, bending, or reaching. Bottoms (shorts, skirts, and dresses) must be knee-length or longer. Pajamas, crop tops, tank tops, and ripped or shredded clothing are not permitted.

Head Coverings & Outerwear

Head coverings worn for religious purposes are always welcome and permitted. Hats and hoods may not be worn indoors. Long coats are to be stored and not worn inside the building during the school day. Face coverings are not permitted, with the exception of medical masks.

Prohibited Designs & Messages

Clothing and accessories may not display hate speech or content related to drugs, gangs, violence, or sexual themes. Bandana print is not permitted. Any attire deemed disruptive or unsafe by school staff is not allowed.

How the Dress Code Is Enforced

- Dress code is checked daily during homeroom.
- If a student arrives out of dress code, they will be sent home, or a parent or guardian must bring appropriate school attire to the building.
- Repeated dress code violations will result in suspension.

Family partnership on dress code

Please review your child's outfit, especially their shoes, before they leave for school each morning. If your family needs support obtaining appropriate footwear or clothing, please reach out to the main office in confidence. We want every student dressed safely and ready to learn, and we are glad to help connect families with resources.