

Uniform Policy

All students must come to school in the VOICE Charter School uniform every day. If a student arrives to school out of uniform, parents will be called and asked to bring in a uniform before the student is sent to class. We have a required school uniform for several very important reasons:

- 1) **Uniforms unite us as a community.** When you look at the VOICE Charter School uniform, it is a powerful visual statement of our community.
- 2) **Uniforms reduce distractions and clothing competition.** Often students spend more time discussing and evaluating what others are wearing or not wearing than they spend focusing on learning. Wearing uniforms eliminates this distraction.
- 3) **Uniforms make us all equal.** Whether families have high incomes or low incomes, the students come to school looking the same way. No one is made to feel bad about the clothes they have or don't have.
- 4) **Uniforms reflect the professional attitude with which we approach learning.** By coming to school in their special, professional clothes, students are proudly wearing their learning-focused attitudes on their sleeves.

We will enforce the dress code strictly. Teachers and staff are being held accountable for enforcing the dress code and they are evaluated on the compliance of the students in their classroom. If a child is not fully compliant with the dress code, he or she will not be admitted to class or be able to attend a school event such as a field trip or a concert unless a family member brings replacement clothing.

Students may not change out of the VOICE Charter School uniform at any point during the school day. Some families have found appropriate uniform items at French Toast (www.frenchtoast.com, 1800.frenchtoast), Cookies (www.cookieskids.com, 877.942.6654), JCPenney (www.jcpenney.com), or Lands End (www.landsend.com, 1.800.963.4816). If you are unsure whether an item is appropriate, please ask the office before removing the tags so that you do not purchase items that your child will not be allowed to wear the school. We are happy to advise you on specific questions related to the uniform policy

The components of the VOICE Charter School uniform are as follows:

- **Polos:** On top, students must wear a light blue collared polo shirt. Shirts can be long or short-sleeved and must be long enough to tuck in (although tucking in is not required except for specified occasions like concerts). A blouse, T-shirt, or dress shirt is not part of our school uniform.
- **Undershirt:** If a student chooses to wear an undershirt, it must be white, black, or light blue or the polo should be buttoned all the way so that it can't be seen.. Long sleeved undershirts should be worn under long sleeved polos; if they are plain white, this is acceptable until short sleeve polos. Turtlenecks of any color are not allowed.
- **Sweater:** Only a long-sleeve solid navy blue sweater (knit fabric) or sweater vest may be worn over the polos. All pieces of clothing should be free of any logos or writing larger than a quarter. We ask that students refrain from wearing sweaters with hoods which can be a distraction from learning or sweatshirts.
- **Pants:** Students may wear plain navy blue pants with zippers at the waist (elastic allowed for Kindergarten). Pants must be worn at the waist, and pants must be the correct size (fitting on the hips snugly so that undergarments are not displayed). No baggy pants, denim, cargo pants, sweatpants or