

UPPER SCHOOL DRESS CODE AND INFORMATION 2023-2024

MacLaren students wear a simple uniform and follow a conservative dress code, both to eliminate distraction and to create a school identity.

A. Dress Code

Jewelry: An object that has a purpose other than jewelry cannot be worn as jewelry (i.e. animal chains or collars, specialized ear jewelry, safety pins or tacks). Spikes are not allowed on shoes or clothing.

Boys – Bracelets, earrings, neck chains and other jewelry are not allowed for boys. Wearing a wristwatch is acceptable. Students may appeal to the Dean of Boys for permission to wear items of religious significance, but if physically possible, such items should be worn underneath the clothing.

Girls – Girls may wear jewelry that is conservative; jewelry should not be a distraction. Girls may wear one pair of short earrings in each earlobe. Girls should not wear only one earring. Large hoops or other dangling or distracting earrings are not permitted. No body-piercing jewelry except earrings will be permitted. Girls may wear one wrist bracelet and one small necklace. Bracelet may not be a rubber wristband. Pendants should not be large or elaborate; they should be not much larger than an inch or so in length, width, or diameter. No chokers, shells, or large or elaborate chain-link may be worn. No anklets may be worn. Girls may wear one ring on each hand.

Makeup:

- Boys – No makeup is allowed for boys. Nail polish is not allowed for boys. As all students play a stringed instrument, nails should be kept short.
- Girls – Girls in 6th and 7th grade may not wear makeup. Makeup worn by 8th -12th grade girls must look natural. Fingernails should not be excessively long or painted garishly. Nail polish should be painted in a manner that is appropriate for school. Polish should not be neon-bright, overtly sparkly, black, or patterned or decorated (e.g. polka-dotted, flowers, stripes, etc.). Moreover, fingernails all need to have the same color. The judgment of the appropriateness of nail polish color will be determined by the Dean of Girls. As all students play a stringed instrument, nails should be kept short.

Hair:

- Boys – Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color. Radical changes in hair color during the school year are unacceptable. Hair must be cut so that it does not hang down into the eyes. Hair cannot extend over the shirt collar in the back or over the ears on the sides. Sideburns can come to the bottom of the ear or shorter. No part of the head may be shaved, including undercuts or severe fades. Shaggy hair is prohibited. Boys must be clean shaven every day.
- Girls – Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color; hair may not have extreme highlights, including ombre highlights. Radical changes in hair color during the school year are unacceptable. Students considering dyeing their hair are highly encouraged to discuss with the Dean. Shaved heads are not permitted; moreover, hair cannot be shaved

or short on one side of the head and longer on the other. No hair extensions such as feathers or streaks of color are allowed. Barrettes, bows, and headbands cannot be too large or distracting. Bows, flowers and other hair ornaments should not be larger than three inches in any dimension. Headbands also should not be wider than three inches. No bandanas may be worn, even as headbands.

- (MacLaren does not discriminate on the basis of race, and as such will allow students to wear hairstyles that commonly or historically associated with their particular race or ethnicity.)

Sunglasses and Hats:

Sunglasses are not to be worn within the school building during school hours, with the exception of prescription glasses that change in the light. Hats (caps, visors, beanies, bandanas, etc.) may not be worn except on designated days.

Body Piercings/Tattoos:

Visible body piercing, tongue rings/barbells or “gauging” of the ears are not allowed and must be removed during school. No tattoos, temporary or permanent. This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin.

When in doubt, a student should seek the counsel of the appropriate Dean for guidance regarding the dress code. A Dean may seek the Head of School’s decision regarding a judgment in dress; the Head of School’s decision is considered final.

Outerwear:

Students must purchase either a MacLaren sweater or MacLaren fleece from French Toast. These are also available at a substantial discount from the retail prices at used uniform sales. Students may not wear non-MacLaren outerwear at school, and the building is sometimes too cold to go without layers.

B. Uniform

Uniform Vendor:

1) French Toast 1-800-FRENCHTOAST www.frenchtoast.com

The items that may only be purchased through French Toast are listed below with an asterisk. The other items listed may be purchased through French Toast if you desire, or you may purchase them through another vendor/store of your choice, as long as they adhere to the guidelines set forth below. Many items may be purchased at Land’s End, but please note that shirts, skirts, sweaters and fleeces may not be purchased there.

To access our school page at French Toast, go to www.frenchtoast.com. Click the “Shop by School” tab and where it says “Enter School Code,” type in “QS5SFIW,” and press Enter. This will take you to our school’s page. Our school source code is “QS5SFIW”. Whenever you order from French Toast, please use this code and French Toast will donate a percentage of our sales back to the school.

Girl's Uniform

***Shirt: Must be purchased through French Toast**

- **Grades 6-8:** maroon pique polo shirt with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching, short-sleeved or long-sleeved
- **Grades 9-12:** white pique polo shirt with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching, short-sleeved or long-sleeved

Undershirts:

- Plain, white t-shirts may be worn underneath the uniform shirts in cold weather. (No turtlenecks or long-sleeved shirts under short-sleeved polos.)

Pants:

- All girls' pants must be khaki straight-leg pants, flat-front or pleated. No logo.
- Pant length must be just below the ankle with a simple hem, no cuff.
- No cargo pants. No decorations, no brass buttons, no jean-like material. No external/patch pockets.
- Pants must fit with a 1-2” ease around the hips; not too tight—not too loose.

Shorts:

- All girls' shorts must be khaki, flat front or pleated Bermuda shorts, no logo.
- Shorts Hem: should be no more than 2 inches from the top of the knee cap and should not go past the knee cap.

Belt:

- Plain, simple dark brown or black leather or leather-like belt (flat or braided) with plain buckle;
- Belts are NOT optional with pants and shorts

***Skirt: Must be purchased through French Toast**

- Burgundy Plaid skirt
- Skirt Hem: Conservative; ranging from the top of the knee to no more than two inches below the knee.

***Sweater: Must be purchased through French Toast**

- Maroon crew neck button-down sweater with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching
- Non-approved outerwear will not be permitted unless student is outside.

Fleece: MacLaren will notify parents of vendor options for the fleece each year. Grey MacLaren hoodies are spirit wear and are not part of the uniform.

- Maroon fleece with “Thomas MacLaren logo”
- Non-approved outerwear will not be permitted unless student is outside.

Shoes:

- Entirely black, brown or cordovan (soles and laces), ties, flats or slip-ons, leather or leather-like. Closed-toe, closed-heel. No heels over 1” in middle school; no heels over 2” in high school. No logos should appear on the shoes. NO athletic shoes, sandals, including

Birkenstocks, Vans, Converse, Nike and Adidas, no cloth shoes or sport boots of any kind, or shoes that look like slippers. No boots above the ankle.

Socks/Tights:

- **With pants and shorts:** solid white, black, or khaki quarter crew, crew, or knee-high socks (no logo). Short socks must rise above the ankle. No anklets or low sport socks.
- **With Skirt:** solid white, black, or khaki quarter crew, crew or knee-high socks, or tights (no logo); nude nylons also acceptable. No leggings.

Boy's Uniform

***Shirt: Must be purchased through French Toast**

- **Grades 6-8:** maroon pique polo shirt with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching, short-sleeved or long-sleeved
- **Grades 9-12:** white pique polo shirt with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching, short-sleeved or long-sleeved

Undershirts:

- Plain, white t-shirts may be worn underneath the uniform shirts in cold weather. (No turtlenecks or long-sleeved shirts under short-sleeved polos.)

Pants:

- All boys' pants must be khaki pleated or flat-front, straight-leg pant. No logo.
- Pant length must be just below the ankle with a simple hem, no cuff.
- No cargo pants. No jean-like material. No external/patch pockets.
- Pants must fit modestly, with a 1-2” ease around the hips. Not too tight—not too loose. Pants may not be pulled down below the hips.

Shorts:

- All boys' shorts must be khaki, pleated or flat front walking shorts, no logo.
- Inseam should not go past the top of the knee.
- No cargo shorts; no jean-like material.

Belt:

- Plain, simple dark brown or black leather belt (flat or braided) with plain buckle.
- Belts are NOT optional.

***Sweater: Must be purchased through French Toast**

- Maroon V-neck button-down sweater with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching
- Non-approved outerwear will not be permitted unless student is outside.

Fleece: MacLaren will notify parents of vendor options for the fleece each year. Grey MacLaren hoodies are spirit wear and are not part of the uniform.

- Maroon fleece with “Thomas MacLaren logo”
- Non-approved outerwear will not be permitted unless student is outside.

Shoes:

- Entirely black, brown or cordovan (soles and laces) dress shoes, ties, flats or slip-ons, leather or leather-like. Closed-toe, closed-heel. No heels over 1". No logos should appear on the shoes. NO athletic shoes, sandals, including Birkenstocks, Vans, Converse, Nike and Adidas, "skater shoes," cloth shoes or sport boots of any kind, or shoes that look like slippers. No boots.

Socks:

- **With pants or shorts:** solid white, black, or khaki quarter crew, crew or dress socks (no logo). Short socks must rise above the ankle. No anklets or low sport socks.