

DRESS CODE

At OnTECH we believe dress code is an important part of our school culture. What we wear and how we present is a form of communication. In fact, colors and appearance are an important form of communication throughout our ecosystem. Did you know that the bright orange color of the monarch butterflies signal to birds, mice and other animals that they are poisonous? What about cardinals? Although the females are nicely camouflaged with pale brown feathers, the male cardinal communicates to the world his gender and his health through the bright red color of his coat. By following the OnTECH dress code, you, too, will be learning the value and opportunities that are associated with communicating who you are. This is a lesson which, once learned, will not only raise your confidence and self esteem, but will lead to a lifetime of success, whether in school, college or work.

What you wear is always a form of self expression and represents a level of respect for yourself and for the members in our learning community. The following guideless were suggestions made by parents, teachers and students caring deeply about the culture we are designing at OnTECH. These guidelines limit peer pressure, but also allow you to have some choice in what you wear and how you look. However, with choice, comes responsibility. Students will need to think through what is appropriate to wear to attend school and be an active learner. This is the same decision-making that you will depend upon when you attend a job interview or go to work. Remember, as with all policies at OnTECH, if we as a community feel that our dress code is not working to grow us towards the best versions of ourselves, we will need to iterate.

Ultimately, our dress code is a set of guidelines to help you answer the following question:

Are the clothes I am about to put on sending a message that I am ready to be a professional member of my OnTECH community today?

Routinely answering this question correctly each morning is a skill that takes practice and growth. You may find it helpful when making your clothing choices to keep in mind that what you wear will depend on the purpose of the day. For example, one day you may have a job interview and want to dress professionally with a collared shirt and pressed pants and another day you may be doing field work and want to dress in jeans and work boots. At the beginning of school, we will discuss various scenarios and practice applying a decision-making tree for what to wear.

You may also find it helpful to identify clothing choices that will never be good choices at OnTECH. For this reason, the following items are not allowed to be worn during school by students:

- Underwear, sleepwear, and swimwear worn as outerwear or that is visible
- Sweatpants
- Shorts that fall more than a dollar-bill width above the knee
- Shirts, t-shirts, jackets, sweaters with any writing, images, or branding (other than school name).
- Crop tops
- Spaghetti strap shirts unless you wear underneath a sleeved shirt or sweater
- Any clothing promoting drugs, violence, alcohol, sexually related products and activities, or other topics that could be considered offensive to any member of the community.
- Head coverings unless for religious reasons
- Skirts that fall more than a dollar-bill width above the knee, unless worn with tights or leggings
- Leggings and Jeggings unless worn with long shirts that cover the gluteus maximus
- Ripped or cut-off jeans of any color
- Hoodies unless school-branded
- Open-toed shoes, sneakers or sandals
- Any shoe or sneaker without socks

Please know if a teacher decides that you are not dressed appropriately for school, you will be asked to reflect on and discuss your choices with your adviser and find appropriate clothes or shoes in the school's clothes pantry. Being sent home will not be an option.

No doubt you will have questions. So, please ask! We are here to help you learn.

Let's remember to carefully choose our clothing each morning in such a way that communicates who we are as individuals and speaks of our commitment to professionalism at OnTECH!

Team OnTECH