

## WHAT TO WEAR FOR GRADUATION

It is recommended that 8<sup>th</sup> graders refrain from buying their graduation dress too early in the year. Students tend to grow a lot during the year, and may find that what fit when they ordered it in the fall does not fit in the spring. If you think you may order online, beginning the search in February might be appropriate. In-store shoppers can wait till March or April. I would like to give some graduation dress guidelines that can be followed whenever your family chooses to shop. Dresses worn should be modest, and appropriate for a daytime ceremony, not a prom. Photo examples of appropriate dresses are available from the teacher. Here is a quick reference guide:

The dress will:

- have two straps (no halter)
- cover all cleavage in front
- cover a bra in the back
- be modest in fit (not too clingy in the hips)
- fall between mid-calf and the usual uniform length (opaque)
- be plain or print, white or colored (reserving black for evening attire)
- avoid distracting decoration such as (but not exclusively) gems, feathers, fur, animal print, writing, etc.

The shoes will:

- be dress shoes or sandals which allow the student easy, secure movement
- no sneakers, no flip flops; no platform shoes  
(one inch or thicker under the ball of the foot)
- avoid distracting sparkles or gems (worn for evening events)

Here are a few descriptions of appropriate graduation wear to share with girls:

For a graduation ceremony, "the outfit will be similar whether you are the one graduating or are in the audience. The best way to describe the dress code is 'Sunday Best'. A sundress and heels is entirely acceptable. . . Think about what you might wear to church on Easter Sunday and you are ready to go." (NashVogue.com)

"If you are a girl graduate, make sure that you wear something that is elegant and chic, like a simple dress or a skirt and a blouse. . . Girls should opt for fairly dressy shoes, like pumps or flats." (MyExpression.com)

"Women usually wear a cocktail dress to semi-formal events. . . A cocktail dress is a woman's dress worn at cocktail parties and semi-formal occasions. The length of cocktail dresses varies. . . Mid-calf is called *tea length*. When it is almost touching the ankle it is called *ballerina length*, and. . . falls into the *evening gown* category." (Wikipedia) An evening gown is for a formal evening event such as a prom or wedding.

On the first Tuesday in May, the girls are asked to bring their graduation dresses to school for review (please keep your receipt just in case). It is fun for them to have a chance to model for their classmates what they plan to wear, and it's helpful to have the opportunity to address any potential issues (undergarments, straps, shoes, etc) before graduation day. This gives us a month to solve any issues, and avoids the stress of dealing with problems on the special day. If your daughter would like to bring two dresses (because she's having trouble choosing, or thinks her first choice may not meet requirements) she is welcome to do so.

Any student who does not bring a dress on Review Day will be assigned study hall (unprepared). Each Tuesday thereafter, students who have not yet had a dress approved will be assigned study hall. This means that dresses which are ordered online rather than bought off the rack must be ordered early enough to arrive for Review Day. If a student's dress requires alteration (to length, straps, etc.) after Review Day, she should expect to serve a study hall each week until the alteration is shown. Exceptions will not be made. Graduation day surprises are stressful and unpleasant for all concerned.

Please feel free to contact the classroom teacher if you have a question about the style of a specific dress.