

WHAT TO WEAR FOR GRADUATION

It is recommended that 8th graders refrain from buying their graduation attire 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.

Graduating **boys** wear a suit, typically in a conservative black, gray, navy or brown. A tie is required, and a colorful tie (and optional vest) can brighten up the look, making it more festive. Dress shoes are also required.

Below are graduation dress guidelines for **girls**. Dresses worn should be modest, and appropriate for a daytime ceremony, not a prom. Photo examples of appropriate dresses will be available on our Google Classroom. Here is a quick reference guide:

The dress need to:

- have two straps (no halter)
- cover all cleavage in front
- cover a bra in the back
- be modest in fit (not too tight, especially around the backside)
- be plain or print, white or colored (reserving black for mature evening attire)
- fall between mid-calf and one inch above the knee cap (with opaque fabric; no high-low)
- avoid distracting decoration such as gems, feathers, fur, animal print, writing, etc.

Dress pant options are available for girls who choose not to wear a dress:

- dress pants and a blouse (like business attire) or a jumpsuit
 - straight or loose-fitting bottoms (no skinny legs)
 - top fits dress requirements for bodice

The shoes should be modest, comfortable and secure:

- dress shoes or sandals
- 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:

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. . . Midcalf is called *tea length*. When it is almost touching the ankle it is called *ballerina length*, and usually falls into the *evening gown* category." (Wikipedia) An evening gown is for a formal evening event such as a prom or wedding.

In early May, you will be asked to bring your graduation attire to school for review (please keep your receipt just in case). It is fun to have a chance to model for your classmates what you will wear, and it's helpful to have the opportunity to address any potential issues (undergarments, straps, shoes, etc) before graduation day. This gives you a month to solve any issues, and avoids the stress of dealing with problems on your special day. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Conroy or Mrs. Huff if you have a question about a specific outfit.