

## **LOWER SCHOOL UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE INFORMATION 2020-21**

MacLaren students wear a simple, attractive uniform for several reasons, including the following:

- Uniforms help to create a school identity and cohesive school culture;
- Uniforms lend an air of dignity and professionalism to the work of school;
- Uniforms cut down on distraction and social pressure around clothing;
- Uniforms promote school safety by making visitors easier to identify; and
- Uniforms make life easier for students and families.

In addition, MacLaren students follow specific guidelines for being in dress code as it pertains to hair, jewelry, makeup, and the like. Lower School students are expected to be in dress code and in uniform at all times during the school day. Uniforms should be of an appropriate size and fit, and must be worn as intended by the policy.

### **A. Dress Code**

#### **Hair**

All students' hair must be groomed and kempt. Shaved heads are not permitted; this includes undercuts or severe fades. The difference in lengths of hair may be no more than 2 inches. Students' hair must be a single natural color (natural-colored highlights are acceptable), and their hairstyle cannot be strikingly conspicuous or extreme. If bangs are worn, they must be above the eyes.

Boys' hair should be no longer than the bottom of the ears on the sides. Hair in back will be no longer than the bottom of the collar. The Dean of Students or Head of Lower School will make final decisions regarding hair.

For girls: no hair extensions such as feathers or streaks of color are allowed. Barrettes, bows, and headbands cannot be too large or distracting. (Animal-ear headbands, for example, are not allowed.) 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.

#### **Jewelry/Piercings/Tattoos**

All jewelry must be simple and in good taste. No object that has a purpose other than jewelry (i.e., animal chains or collars, safety pins, etc.) may worn as jewelry. Girls may wear one pair of short earrings in each earlobe. Bracelets, earrings, neck chains and other jewelry are not allowed for boys. Students may appeal to the Dean of Students for permission to wear items of religious significance, but if physically possible, such items should be worn underneath the clothing. No other visible piercing is allowed for girls, and no visible piercing is allowed for boys. Visible tattoos, temporary or permanent, are prohibited for all students. This prohibition includes drawings on the skin.

### **Makeup/Fingernails/Nail polish**

No makeup is permitted at the Lower School level. Nail polish is not allowed for boys. Nail polish should be painted in a manner that is tasteful and appropriate for school. Fingernails all need to have the same color. As all students participate in P.E. every day, nails should be kept short.

### **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.

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

### **Backpacks and Accessories**

Backpacks, lunch boxes, pencil boxes, etc., should follow the spirit of the dress code. We ask that parents not purchase accessories that feature characters from popular culture, particularly those that promote violence.

### **Outerwear**

**Students must purchase either a MacLaren sweater from French Toast or a MacLaren fleece through the Thomas MacLaren School store.** 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 except at designated times, and the building is sometimes too cold to go without layers.

## **B. Lower School Uniform**

### **Uniform Vendor: French Toast**

**1-800-FRENCHTOAST**     [www.frenchtoast.com](http://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 choose, 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](http://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. Whenever you order from French Toast, please use this code and French Toast will donate a percentage of our sales back to the school.

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

- **Grades K-5:** gray pique polo shirt with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching, short-sleeved or long-sleeved.

**Undershirt**

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

**Pants**

- All pants must be navy 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 jean-like material. No external/patch pockets.
- Pants must fit appropriately for school and may not be worn below the hips.

**Shorts**

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

**\*Girls: Skirt or jumper must be purchased through French Toast**

- Blue-gold pleated plaid skirt or round-neck pleated plaid jumper. (Jumper will not be in stock until summer 2019)
- Skirt and jumper length must be school- and play-appropriate, ranging from two inches above to two inches below the knee.
- To facilitate ease of play and daily P.E., shorts may be worn beneath a skirt or jumper.

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

- Navy blue button-down sweater with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching
- Non-approved outerwear will not be permitted unless student is outside.
- *Boys:* Cardigan sweater is v-neck.
- *Girls:* Cardigan sweater is crew neck.

**Belt**

- Belts must be worn with all shorts and pants.
- Belts may not have spikes or metal protrusions, and must be of coordinating colors, ideally black or brown.
- Buckles must be plain and not overly large.
- Belts are *required* with pants and shorts.
- Belts are *optional* for kindergarten students.

**Fleece: Navy blue fleeces purchased through the Thomas MacLaren School store are available during specified times of the year. Parents will be notified when they are available for purchase. Grey MacLaren hooded sweatshirts are spirit wear and are not part of the uniform.**

- Navy blue fleece with “Thomas MacLaren” logo.
- Non-approved outerwear is not permitted unless student is outside.

**Shoes**

- Because Lower School students have P.E. every day, their primary footwear should be athletic/tennis shoes. Tennis shoes must be appropriate to the school environment. Students may not wear shoes that are inappropriate for play or for a learning environment: e.g., neon-colored

shoes, light-up shoes, shoes with rollers or wheels, slippers, Crocs, sandals, and any shoes that would otherwise inhibit learning.

- Students may opt to wear dress shoes outside of P.E. Dress shoes must follow the dress code for Upper School students:
  - Entirely black, brown or cordovan (soles and laces), ties, flats or slip-ons, leather or leather-like. Closed-toe, closed-heel. No heels. No logos should appear on the shoes. NO 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.
- Any student wearing dress shoes must keep a pair of tennis shoes in his or her cubby in order to change for P.E.

### **Socks/Tights/Leggings**

- Students must wear socks at all times. Socks must be in a single, solid color: white, gray, navy, or black.
- *Girls*: Full-length tights and ankle-length leggings may be worn. All tights and leggings must be in a single, solid color: white, gray, or navy. Leggings do not replace pants.
- Socks, tights, and leggings should not be patterned; socks may not have a logo.
- All socks must go above the ankle.