The dress code at City School of the Arts reflects our theory of action: self-expression flourishes best within a clear structure of guidelines. Its main purpose is to:

1. Unify CSA as an artistic and intellectual community;
2. Remove unnecessary distractions so students can focus on academic and artistic pursuits; and
3. Meet the functional needs of CSA students for comfort, ease of motion, and safety.

**Tops**
Students are encouraged to wear a CSA uniform top, either shirt or sweatshirt, to school every day. All CSA uniform tops are available online at [CSA Student Styles](#). Uniform scholarships are available to any family upon request; please contact the main office with inquiries. Personal shirts, polos, and T-shirts are acceptable if they meet the other requirements below. Tops must be long enough to cover the belt-line or be tucked in during the school day. No tanks or spaghetti strap tops.

**Bottoms**
Students may wear any color or style pants, short, or skirt, including athletic wear and jeans. Shorts and skirts length must come to three inches above the knee.

**Shoes**
Sneakers are encouraged, but any closed-toe shoes that are easy to move in are allowed. Students may not wear open-toed or backless shoes, including flip-flops or slides, or shoes with heels exceeding one inch, as they present a serious safety hazard.

**Other**
- Hats are not allowed, except those worn for religious observance, medical necessity or school-related events. Students may not wear hooded sweatshirts in school. They cannot resist wearing the hoods up and this undermines the open, friendly atmosphere we are trying to create. Head wraps and scarves are permitted.
- Jewelry is permitted but may not have logos, lights, motors, or any feature that may cause classroom distractions. Appropriateness of jewelry shall be at the discretion of the Dean of Students.
- Sunglasses, like hoodies, are a distraction and separate students from the community. They are not permitted in school without a written medical requirement.
- Attire, including backpacks, with inappropriate or offensive messages are not permitted at CSA. “Offensive” includes, but is not limited to:
  - Vulgar pictures, words, or drawings;
  - Promotion or advertisement of products that are sexually related or illegal for minors (tobacco, alcohol, drugs, etc.);
  - Promotion or advertisement of products that are inappropriate for minors; and
  - Profanity or prejudiced language.

**Additional notes:**
- Students must not bring their own laptops, iPads or other tablets, Nintendo Switches, or other personal electronics to school. These items are also a distraction and can be lost, damaged, or stolen.