

PHOTO DAY TIPS FOR MIDDLE- AND HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS

You can please yourself, your parents and your photographer and still get a portrait that reflects the real you on picture day. It just takes a little planning, communication, and mutual respect.

This time in your life is an adventure. Some of you will change more in one year than you have in the last three. When you leave middle school or high school and look back on that first-year photo, you'll be amazed at the difference. We're here to capture and celebrate that transformation.

1. The **color** of clothing you choose to wear will either complement your face and eyes or detract from them. **Words and designs** on your clothing will share with the world what you are "into" at the moment. Although we want to capture an image that reflects who you are, we also want to remind you that, no matter how much you loved Elmo when you were 3, you probably wouldn't want a picture with him today.
2. If you want to **reflect your passion** for sports, music, and so on in this year's portrait, we are with you all the way. Remember photographers are artists, so most of us also had our own unique styles when we were your age. Just try to stay away from colors, designs, and words that overpower your eyes and expression.
3. Before you commit to your photo day wardrobe, take a moment to consider who you're creating the photo for. If Grandma receives a photo every year, we all know she wants to see you smile. If your mom and dad are the ones who really want this photo, thank them for all they do by wearing something they like. Special note to the ladies in the house: **Plunging necklines and tube tops** do not work well in head shots; good photos need more texture than just face and skin.
4. Notes on **skin and blemishes**: Isn't retouching wonderful? Just because you woke up with a gathering of neon zits on photo day doesn't mean you have to live with them forever. Order your photos online where you can find a variety of retouch options.
5. When it comes to **makeup**, a bit of lipstick, mascara, and blush is all you need. Remember, you are young, beautiful, and wrinkle-free!
6. **Smile** with your eyes even if you choose not to show your teeth. If possible, ask the photographer to create a variety of expressions that you can choose from later. Why waste valuable professional photographer time with the same expression over and over again? Use us to explore different versions of you.