

## **Lower School Uniform and Dress Code**

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The Academy has a primary objective of developing a “community of learners,” dedicated to the highest standards of academics and deportment. As such, a distinctive uniform is a unifying factor within our school community. It is also a visible signature of our school to the larger community, an indicator of our unity and of our pride of purpose. This is one of the most important functions of a uniform: it identifies its wearer as part of a distinctive group with a distinctive purpose. It is a reminder to its wearer of that purpose and of one’s responsibility to that group. Our school is also committed to the development of individual personality and character—not through external “expressions” of dress and appearance, which can easily be purchased or affected, and which can quickly divide students through the power of snap judgments and prejudices, but through personal qualities, virtues, and traits. It seems countercultural to assert this in our age, but the Academy holds that the school uniform is an essential condition for cultivating genuine individuality in the school community. It is not this or that particular element of the uniform that “matters” more than any of the others; rather, the uniform as a whole is what matters.

While students are responsible for their clothing and appearance, it is the parents who are responsible for providing the conditions required for meeting the standard, e.g. proper shoes, shirts, skirts and pants that fit properly, etc. Parents are expected to be familiar with the uniform requirements below and to ensure that their children come to school each day in the appropriate attire, from head to toe. It is an uncomfortable experience for a child to be corrected for a uniform violation, and repeated uniform issues can become an enormous distraction for students.

The uniform is the basis of a dress code with a “professional,” business-like standard. Our students should dress their best, look their best, and do their best. All clothing must be clean, neat, reasonably pressed, and in properly-fitting condition. If a child is deemed to be wearing inappropriate attire, the parent will be notified, and a change of clothing may be required for attendance that day. If in doubt about the appropriateness of an article of clothing, check with the front desk or administration before purchasing.

Decisions about the appropriateness of apparel may be referred to the Dean of Students, whose judgment, in consultation with the Headmaster and Assistant Headmasters will be final. The school will make specific exceptions to the dress code as required by particular religious customs; parents should address specific concerns to the Assistant Headmasters.

Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus (including the parking lot) during a school day. This means arriving on campus fully in uniform and leaving campus fully in uniform (correct shoes, shirts tucked in, etc.). Students may only change out of uniform after school with teacher/coach permission to participate in an approved curricular or extracurricular activity that requires an immediate change in dress.

Parents must provide their students with the required uniform, except in the case of educationally-disadvantaged students as provided in the Texas Education Code. The Academy may provide a uniform for such students. A request for school assistance for purchasing uniforms must be made in writing to the Headmaster and include evidence of financial hardship. Please contact the Director of Campus Operations for more information.

**Purchasing Note:** Many components of the uniform must be purchased from either [Dennis Uniform](#) or [Flynn O’Hara Uniforms](#), whereas other items can be purchased from other vendors. Please see the note under each item.

### **Kindergarten–5th Grade Boys’ Uniform Requirements**

#### **Required Items:**

- Short-sleeve polo shirt with logo (white or light blue, available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#))
- Pants or shorts (navy blue, available from a vendor of your choice)
- Solid black or brown belt. (Kindergarteners do not need to wear belts.)

#### **Optional Items:**

- Long-sleeve polo shirt with logo (white or light blue, available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#))
- V-neck or cardigan sweater with logo (navy blue, available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#))
- Fleece pullover or jacket with logo (navy blue, available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#))

#### **Acceptable Footwear:**

- White or black athletic shoes
- Shoes should be without conspicuous brand markings.
- K–2nd graders’ shoes may have Velcro closures; 3rd–5th graders must have laces. Students must have their shoes fastened correctly at all times.
- Socks must be solid white, solid black, or solid navy, free of logos, crew-length or ankle-high. “No-show” socks are not permitted.

#### **Examples of Acceptable Kindergarten–5th Boys’ Shoes:**



#### **Additional Kindergarten-5th Grade Boys’ Uniform Requirements:**

**Boys’ Hair:** Hair should be neatly combed or styled. Hair must be above the top of the shirt collar. Hair should be styled so that it does not fall below the eyebrows or past the midpoint of the ear. Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color and cut (no bleaching or unnatural streaking/highlighting, no artificial jet-black coloring, and no unnatural colors). Accommodations for religious reasons are permitted.

## Kindergarten–5th Grade Girls’ Uniform Requirements

Girls are required to wear one of the following choices:

### Choice 1:

- Short-sleeve polo shirt with logo (white or light blue, available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#))
- Pants or shorts (navy blue, available from a vendor of your choice)
- Solid black or brown leather belt, not woven. (Kindergarteners do not need to wear belts.)

### Choice 2:

- Short-sleeve polo shirt with logo (white or light blue, available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#))
- Great Hearts plaid skort (available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#))

### Optional Items:

- Long-sleeve polo shirt with logo (white or light blue, available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#))
- V-neck or cardigan sweater with logo (navy blue, available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#))
- Fleece pullover or jacket with logo (navy blue, available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#))

### Acceptable Footwear:

- Keds® “School Days II” shoes
- White or black athletic shoes
- Shoes should be without conspicuous brand markings.
- K–2nd graders’ shoes may have Velcro closures; 3rd–5th graders must have laces. Students must have their shoes fastened correctly at all times.
- Socks must be solid white, solid black, or solid navy, free of logos, crew-length, ankle-high, or knee-high. “No-show” socks are not permitted.
- Tights must be solid white or solid navy and free of logos or designs. Solid white or solid navy footless tights are permitted, but socks must be worn. Knit tights for colder weather are also acceptable, but they should not be patterned or textured, including cable-knit.

### Examples of Acceptable Kindergarten–5th Girls’ Shoes:



### **Additional Kindergarten-5th Grade Girls' Uniform Requirements:**

**Skorts:** The skort hem may be no higher than just above the knee, both in front and in back. To measure a correct skort/jumper length, properly adjust the skort at the waist, kneel on a level surface, and measure at most two inches between skort's hem and the floor. Skorts must be worn at the waist. The Great Hearts plaid skort comes with built-in, black modesty shorts.

**Makeup:** K–5th Girls may not wear makeup. Fingernails should not be excessively long or painted garishly. Fingernails may only be painted in light pink or beige. Tasteful French manicures are acceptable. No shades of red, blue, green, yellow, purple or black are permissible, nor are glittered, speckled, or patterned nail polish.

**Girls' Hair:** Hair should be neatly combed or styled. Neat, small bows, barrettes, headbands, and hair ties are permissible so long as they coordinate with the uniform. Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color and cut (no bleaching or unnatural streaking/highlighting, no artificial jet-black coloring, and no unnatural colors). Accommodations for religious reasons are permitted.

### **Additional Requirements for All Students**

**Pants:** Boys' and girls' pants must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. Pants should not be excessively tight or loose-fitting. No jeggings or pants with elastic at the ankles. The pants must have belt loops and a solid black or solid brown belt at least 3/4" wide must be used (except in Kindergarten). No jeans (including khaki-colored denim) or pants with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean-like characteristics are permitted. No Dickies, cargo pants, oversized pants, super-baggy pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Slacks should be worn at the waist.

**Shorts:** Shorts should reach to just above the knee but not below and should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Shorts should be worn at the waist. Shorts must have belt loops and a solid black or solid brown belt at least 3/4" wide must be used (except in Kindergarten). No jean shorts (including khaki-colored denim) or shorts with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean-like characteristics are permitted. No Dickies, cargo shorts, oversized shorts, super-baggy shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted.

**Undershirts:** White undershirts may be worn but should not be visible (except for a small triangle underneath the collar). Long-sleeve undershirts must be worn with long-sleeve uniform shirts that cover them completely.

**Jewelry:** Students may wear one pair of small, inconspicuous stud or short earrings only on the ear lobes. "Short" means that the earrings should hug the ear lobe and be no more than 1cm in diameter. Large hoops or other dangling or distracting earrings are not permitted. No body-piercing jewelry except traditionally-located earrings will be permitted. One simple ring on each hand is permitted. One wrist bracelet, one watch (smartwatch prohibited), and one small necklace are permissible. Only simple, fine-gauged, 16 to 20-inch, silver or gold chain necklaces (with or without a pendant) are permitted. The following will not be permitted: chokers, beaded necklaces (colored or otherwise), leather necklaces, shells, large or elaborate chain-link, and large or elaborate pendants (larger than an inch in length, width or diameter).

**Headwear:** Hats and caps free of pop culture references or images, messages, or conspicuous logos may be worn at recess, P.E., carline, or other outdoor activities, but must be removed when entering the school building or at a teacher’s request. Accommodations for religious reasons are permitted.

**Examples of Acceptable Headwear:**



**Outerwear:** Knit uniform sweaters and uniform fleece pullovers with the Great Hearts logo available from [Dennis](#) or [Flynn O’Hara](#) may be worn throughout the school day all year long. Other jackets, coats, and sweatshirts may be worn to school for warmth but must be free of pop culture references or images, messages, or conspicuous logos. Appropriate outerwear may be worn during recess, P.E., carline, and other outdoor activities, but students must store outerwear in their cubbies or on hooks while they are inside the school building.

**Examples of Acceptable Outerwear:**



**Sunglasses:** Plain sunglasses free of pop culture references or images, messages, or conspicuous logos may be worn at recess, P.E., carline, or other outdoor activities, but must be removed when entering the school building or at a teacher’s request.

**Tattoos:** No tattoos are permitted—either temporary or permanent. This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin. Accommodations for religious reasons are permitted.

**Other:** No oversized or baggy clothing will be permitted. All clothing should be labeled in case of loss.

### **Backpacks, Lunchboxes, and Water Bottles**

Students may bring backpacks, lunchboxes, water bottles, and purses to and from school. These items must be stored inside cubbies or on hooks during the school day and should not be accessed without permission or left on the floor/ground. All items should be free of pop culture references or images, messages, conspicuous brand logos, and dangling accessories.

The following are examples of acceptable items:



Academy officials may search and seize property when there is reason to believe that some material or matter is present that is detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of students.

### **School Concert Dress Code**

**Boys:** Black (or dark) dress pants, white button-up dress shirt with black (or dark) necktie. Black (or dark) dress shoes *or* all-black athletic shoes.

**Girls:** Black (or dark) modest-length dress *or* black (or dark) modest-length skirt with a white blouse/top. Black (or dark) dress shoes, black (or dark) dress sandals, black (or dark) ballet flats, *or* all-black athletic shoes.

### **Dress Code for Special Events**

All shirts worn for special events should be modest, loose fitting, in good repair (no holes, torn pant legs, etc.) and should be worn either tucked in or well over the waist of the pants/shorts if not tucked in. No midriffs may be shown. T-shirts are preferred—no tank tops, camisoles, or sports bras may be worn as outer garments. Sleeveless shirts may be worn if modest. Pants/Shorts should be modest and in good repair (no holes, torn sleeves, etc.). Pants/Shorts should be worn at the waist. Shorts should be no shorter than mid-thigh, and no-longer than just below the knee. No short-shorts or long baggy shorts may be worn. No boxers or undergarments may be visible.