

Uniform and Dress Code

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 the 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, quirks 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 urged to understand the uniform requirements below, and to ensure that their children go to school each day in the right 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 school office before purchasing.

Decisions about the appropriateness of apparel may be referred to the appropriate Dean, whose judgment, in consultation with the Headmaster and Assistant Headmaster 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 Assistant Headmaster Rachel Pauletti before the second week of school.

Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus (including the parking lot) during a school day. Students must be in uniform "car to car." 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 student(s) 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 the inability to pay. Please contact the Registrar for more information.

Purchasing Note: Some components of the uniform must be purchased from Dennis Uniforms www.dennisuniform.com and/or Flynn O'Hara Uniforms www.flynnohara.com; whereas other items can be purchased from any vendor. Please see the note under each item.

Middle School Boys (Grades 6-8)

<u>Required</u>	<u>Optional</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-sleeve Polo Shirt Color: White or Navy blue Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Pants or Shorts (with belt) Color: Khaki Vendor: Any ● P.E. Uniform Shorts and T-shirt Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Long-Sleeve Polo shirt Color: White or Navy Blue Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Sweater, V-neck or Vest Color: Navy Blue with white Varsity Stripe Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Navy quarter-zip sweatshirt with GHI logo Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● P.E. Winter Uniform Sweatshirt and Sweatpants Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms

High School Boys (Grades 9-12)

<u>Required</u>	<u>Optional</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Long-sleeve White Oxford cloth Color: White Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Pants (with belt) Color: Khaki Vendor: Any ● Tie Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● 9th P.E. and all GHI Athletics: Uniform Shorts and T-shirt Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-sleeve White Oxford cloth Color: White Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Sweater, V-neck or Vest Color: Navy Blue with white Varsity Stripe Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Navy quarter-zip sweatshirt with GHI logo Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● 9th P.E. and all GHI Athletics: Winter Uniform Sweatshirt and Sweatpants Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Juniors and Seniors: Navy Blazer with GHI logo after awarded at fall Junior Blazer Ceremony. Blazer is to be worn with white Dennis or Flynn GH Oxford, with or without the Dennis/ Flynn Great Hearts uniform tie.

All Upper School Boys

Boys’ Hair: Hair should be neatly combed or styled. Hair should be styled so that it does not fall below the eyebrows. 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.

Facial Hair: Boys should be clean shaven daily. Beards and/or mustaches are prohibited. Noticeable facial hair such as “stubble,” “peach fuzz,” and “5 o’clock shadows” are not allowed. Boys with noticeable facial hair will be required to shave.

Pants: All pants must reach to the shoe, but should not drag on the ground. The pants must have belt loops and a solid (not woven), dark leather belt must be used. **No denim (including khaki-colored denim) or pants with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean-like characteristics are permitted.** No Dickies, cargo pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Pants should not have visible reinforced knee patches. Pants should not be excessively tight or loose fitting.

Shorts: Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below. Shorts should be worn at the waist (and no boxers or undergarments may be visible – including at sports practices and games). The shorts must have belt loops and a solid (not woven), dark leather belt must be used. **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, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Shorts should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. **Shorts are only for Middle School Students.**

Accessories: Undershirts may be worn, but should not be visible. Boys may wear a single chain/necklace that is not visible above the collar and a watch (not a smart watch). Bracelets, rings, and piercings are not permitted.

Footwear: Upper School boys must wear **dark brown or black dress shoes with dark soles** (slip-on or lace-up). All shoes must be made of leather or synthetic leather (non-suede). Socks must be black or navy solid-colored, and free of logos or patterns. Socks must be “crew length”, covering the ankle and ankle-bone. No-show socks are not permitted.

Examples of Upper School Boys Shoes that **may be worn** are Dress Loafer or Dress Oxford:



The following styles are **examples of shoes that are not permitted:** semi-casual shoes, shoes that are a cross between dress shoes and sneakers (*Sketcher's* and similar styles), other casual style shoes, boat shoes, suede shoes, high-top shoes, boots, sneakers, tennis shoes, canvas shoes, etc. Examples of Upper School Boys Shoes that may **not** be worn are Black Athletic Shoes, Black Boat Shoes, Non-Black Soles, and Boots:



Middle School Girls (Grades 6-8)

<u>Choice 1</u>	<u>Choice 2</u>	<u>Optional</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-sleeve Polo shirt Color: White or Navy Blue Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Pants or Shorts (with belt) Color: Khaki Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● P.E. Uniform Shorts and T-shirt Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-sleeve Polo shirt Color: White or Navy Blue Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Plaid Skirt with modesty shorts Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● P.E. Uniform Shorts and T-shirt Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Long-Sleeve Polo shirt Color: White or Navy Blue Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Sweater: Vest, V-Neck, or Cardigan Color: Navy Blue with White Varsity Stripe Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● Navy quarter-zip sweatshirt with GHI logo Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O’Hara Uniforms ● P.E. Winter Uniform Sweatshirt and Sweatpants

		Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms
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High School Girls (Grades 9-12)

<u>Choice 1</u>	<u>Choice 2</u>	<u>Optional</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Long-sleeve White Oxford cloth Color: White Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms ● Pants (with belt) Color: Khaki Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms ● 9th P.E. and all GHI Athletics: Uniform Shorts and T-shirt Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Long-sleeve White Oxford cloth Color: White with Great Hearts Logo Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms ● Plaid Skirt with modesty shorts Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms ● 9th P.E. and all GHI Athletics: Uniform Shorts and T-shirt Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-sleeve White Oxford cloth Color: White Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms ● Sweater: Vest, V-Neck, or Cardigan Color: Navy Blue with White Varsity Stripe Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms ● Navy quarter-zip sweatshirt with GHI logo Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms ● 9th P.E. and all GHI Athletics: Winter Uniform Sweatshirt and Sweatpants Vendor: Dennis Uniforms & Flynn O'Hara Uniforms ● Juniors and Seniors: Navy Blazer with GHI logo after awarded at

		<p>fall Junior Blazer Ceremony. Blazer is to be worn with white Dennis or Flynn GH Oxford.</p>
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All Upper School Girls

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.

Skirts: The skirt hem may be no higher than just above the knee, both in front and in back. To measure a correct skirt length: properly adjust the skirt at the waist, kneel on a level surface, and measure at most **two inches** between skirt's hem and the floor. Skirts must be worn at the waist. Modesty shorts are recommended.

Pants: Girls' **pants** must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. The pants must have belt loops and a solid, dark belt at least 3/4" wide must be used. **No jeans (including khaki-colored denim) or pants with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean-like characteristics are permitted.** No Dickies, cargo pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Slacks should be worn at the waist. Pants should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Both middle-school and high-school girls may wear pants.

Shorts: Shorts must go to just above the knee but not below. Shorts must be worn at the waist and should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Shorts must be worn with a dark, solid belt at least 3/4" wide. **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, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Only middle-school girls may wear shorts; high-school girls do not have this option.

Footwear: **6-12 girls** are to wear **dress shoes** which are low-heeled (less than 1"), low-soled, or flat and are **solid-color dark brown, dark navy, or black with dark soles** (slip-on or lace-up). All shoes must be made of leather or synthetic leather (non-suede). The shoes may have a simple ornament (bow, buckle) of the same color of the shoe, or of simple silver or gold color; no rhinestones, glitter, or patterned uppers. Nylons or tights must be non-patterned, solid black, navy, or white in color; socks must be a solid black, navy, or white in color. Socks must cover the ankle-bone and go no higher than the knee. No-show socks and footless tights are not permitted. Leggings are not permitted.

Examples of Shoes that **may be worn** are Low Heel or Flat, and Plain Black Leather with Small Bow or Simple Toe Design:



The following styles are **examples of shoes that are not permitted**: semi-casual shoes, shoes that are a cross between dress shoes and sneakers (*Sketcher's* and similar styles), moccasins, other casual style shoes, platform, Doc Martens, boat shoes, suede shoes, high-top shoes, boots, sneakers, tennis shoes, canvas shoes, etc. Examples of Shoes that may **not** be worn are:



Jewelry: Girls may wear one pair of short earrings only on the ear lobes. "Short" means that the earrings should not hang more than ½ inch below the ear lobe. Large hoops or other dangling or distracting earrings are not permitted. No body-piercing jewelry will be permitted. One simple ring on each hand is permitted. One wrist bracelet, one watch, 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). All pop-culture rules and policies apply. Jewelry must be plain, tasteful, and made of metal.

Makeup: Girls may wear subtle makeup only if it is applied tastefully and in moderation. Heavily lined or smokey eyes or bright/gaudy lipstick, glittered or white powdered faces will not be permitted. Fingernails should not be excessively long or painted garishly. Fingernails may only be painted in light to medium pink or beige. Traditional French manicures are acceptable. No other colors are permissible, nor are neon, glittered, speckled, or patterned nail polish. Only natural nails are permitted; additions such as tips, polygel, or acrylic nails are not permitted.

Additional Standards for All Students

Outerwear: Jackets and sweatshirts may be worn to school for warmth but must be free of logos, messages, large images, and pop culture references with the following exceptions: small sports team logos (e.g. Cowboys, Rangers) and small brand name logos (e.g. the Ralph Lauren “polo” logo) are acceptable, provided they are tasteful and do not make inappropriate allusions. Students must store their jackets and sweatshirts in their lockers by the start of first period. Jackets and sweatshirts may be worn during recess and other outdoor activities, including outside lunch, from Fall break (mid-October) to Spring break (mid-March). On rainy days, students may wear the aforementioned clothing during the day only outside the building. The Academy uniform sweaters may be worn throughout the school day all year long. Middle School students also have the option of wearing the GHI navy quarter-zip sweatshirt throughout the school day.

Perfume/Deodorant: Spray perfume and spray deodorant is not allowed due to the health risk it poses to some students.

Additional Guidelines:

- Hats and sunglasses may not be worn in the building.
- No tattoos--temporary or permanent--are permitted. This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin.
- Religious head coverings should be simple in style and solid in color, matching the colors of the uniform.
- Neither extreme of oversized/baggy clothing or of tight/form fitting clothing will be permitted.
- High School boys must button all buttons of their Oxford shirts. High School girls may unbutton the top button; all other buttons must be buttoned.

Dress Code for Extracurricular & Special Events

There are dress requirements for school-sponsored events, including grade-level events (such as 6th Grade World Cultures Day or 8th Grade Folkmoot) and other gatherings throughout the year (such as Theomatha viewings).

All shirts worn for special events should be modest, loose fitting, in good repair (no holes, torn sleeves, etc.), 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 pant legs, etc.). Pants and shorts should be worn at the waist and 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 undergarments (including boxers) may be visible. Leggings and yoga pants are not permitted.

School Concert Dress Code

Young men: Black or dark dress pants. White dress shirt. Dark necktie. Dress shoes

Young ladies: Black or dark, modest-length dress or skirt with a white blouse/top. Dress shoes or dress sandals.

School Concert Black Dress Code

Young men: Black dress pants. Black dress shirt. Dark necktie. Black Dress shoes

Young ladies: Black, modest-length dress or skirt with a black blouse/top. Black dress shoes or dress sandals.

Semi-Formal Events Dress Code

There are specific, semi-formal dress requirements for special events, including end-of-year ceremonies (such as awards dinners, commencement and graduation).

Young men: dress slacks (no jeans or patched pocket pants), a dress shirt, tie, dress socks, dress shoes. Dyed/bleached hair or hats are not permitted. Hair should be trimmed and styled appropriately.

Young ladies: modest-length skirts or dresses (no shorter than the uniform skirt) or dress slacks; bare midriffs or low necklines are not acceptable; ladies may not wear strapless, spaghetti-strap, or tank tops. Girls should wear dress shoes. Although dress sandals (open-toed dress shoes) may be worn, flip-flops or “Y” strapped shoes are not permitted. No dyed/bleached hair.

Field Day

Due to the athletic nature of Field Day, students will be allowed to wear clothing more appropriate to the day. Below are some guidelines we will ask you to adhere to in determining what clothing is acceptable.

Students are permitted to wear the year's Field Day shirt, as well as any other past field day shirts, spirit shirts, or any Great Hearts shirts. Athletic shorts are permitted and should fall between mid-thigh and the knee. Students may wear leggings but only under athletic shorts. Athletic pants must be modest and not baggy. Students should wear tennis shoes and socks. Students may bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a water bottle. Students should carry all belongings in a drawstring athletics bag (like what is used for PE).

The pop culture policy still applies to field day dress. Conspicuous logos and flashy patterns, colors, and designs are not allowed. Tank tops, sleeveless shirts, camisoles, jeans, short-shorts, skin-tight shorts, and leggings are not permitted (leggings are permitted only if appropriate shorts are worn over them). Shoes must be appropriate for athletic movement on a variety of surfaces, so no open-toed, slide-on, or cleated shoes are allowed