

**Great Hearts Irving Lower School
Uniform and Dress Code 2026-2027**



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 Headmaster, whose judgment 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 Headmaster before the second week of school.

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 Flynn O'Hara Uniforms or Tommy Hilfiger through Global School Wear, 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 Flynn O'Hara or Tommy Hilfiger through Global School Wear)
- Pants or shorts (navy blue, available from a vendor of your choice)
- Solid black or brown belt. (Kindergarteners do not need to wear belts.)

Pants: All **dress slacks** must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. The slacks must have belt loops, and a solid, dark belt must be used. **No jeans or khaki 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.

Shorts: Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below and should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Shorts should be worn at the waist (and no boxers or undergarments may be visible – including at sports practices and games). **No jean shorts or khaki 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. The shorts must have belt loops and be worn with a dark belt. (Kindergarten is exempt from wearing a belt for toileting purposes.)

Additional Kindergarten-5th Grade Boys' Uniform Requirements:

- Long-sleeve polo shirt with logo (white or light blue, available from Flynn O'Hara or Tommy Hilfiger through Global School Wear)
- V-neck or cardigan sweater with logo (navy blue, available from Flynn O'Hara or Tommy Hilfiger through Global School Wear)
- **Note:** Lower school students do not wear the V-neck sweater with the stripes. These are for upper school students only.
- Fleece pullover or jacket with logo (navy blue, available from Flynn O'Hara or Tommy Hilfiger through Global School Wear)



Religious Head covering: Boys may wear a religious head covering as part of their school attire. It must be solid in color and should match one of our approved school uniform colors (black, navy, light blue, beige, and white). It should be worn neatly and securely, ensuring it does not obstruct vision or pose any safety concerns during school activities.

K-5 Grooming for Boys

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). Accommodation for religious reasons are permitted. The hair is to be neatly combed before the beginning of each school day. Hair gel that helps the hair stay in place or controls curly hair is allowable. No artificial coloring of the hair, extreme spiking of the hair or mohawks (including combed down or over and some facsimile of a mohawk).

Boy's Accessories: Only simple, fine-gauged, 16 to 20-inch, silver or gold chain necklaces (with or without a pendant) are permitted and must be worn under the shirt. No other jewelry (no earrings, rings, bracelets, etc.) except a simple analog or digital watch may be worn (**no smartwatches or fitbits – such devices go against the purpose of our uniform and technology policies and can be an external expression of status and distraction in the classroom environment – there are clocks in every classroom**). Any watch that is bluetooth capable and/or has the capability to connect to WIFI or internet is considered a smartwatch. If it does more than tell time, then it is not simple.

Any item considered a distraction by the teacher may be confiscated and arrangements will be made with the parent to send the item home. A student may be subject to an infraction, detention, and possible removal from the classroom if he is not in compliance with the school dress code.

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 [Flynn O'Hara](#) or Tommy Hilfiger through [Global School Wear](#))
- 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.)
- **K-2 only:** Plaid jumper & peter pan collared shirt

Choice 2

- Short-sleeve polo shirt with logo (white or light blue, available from [Flynn O'Hara](#) or Tommy Hilfiger through [Global School Wear](#))
- Great Hearts plaid skort (available from [Flynn O'Hara](#) or Tommy Hilfiger through [Global School Wear](#))

Optional Items:

- Long-sleeve polo shirt with logo (white or light blue, available from [Flynn O'Hara](#) or Tommy Hilfiger through [Global School Wear](#))
- V-neck or cardigan sweater with logo (navy blue, available from [Flynn O'Hara](#) or Tommy Hilfiger through [Global School Wear](#))

Note: Lower school students do not wear the V-neck sweater with the stripes. These are for upper school students only



- Fleece pullover or jacket with logo (navy blue, available from [Flynn O'Hara](#) or Tommy Hilfiger through [Global School Wear](#))

Additional Kindergarten-5th Grade Girl 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. Modesty shorts must be worn under the K-2 jumper or any uniform skirt that does not have built-in shorts.

Religious Head covering: Girls may wear a religious head covering as part of their school attire. It must be solid in color and should match one of our approved school uniform colors (black, navy, light blue, beige, or white) and free from embellishment. It should be worn neatly and securely, ensuring it does not obstruct vision or pose any safety concerns during school activities.

K-5 Grooming for Girls:

Girls' Hair: Hair should be neatly combed or styled. Neat small bows, barrettes, headbands, and hair ties are permissible so long as they are approved uniform colors (black, navy, light blue, beige, and white). 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). Accommodation for religious reasons are permitted.

Girls Accessories: Girls are permitted to wear one pair of small, inconspicuous stud or short earrings on the ear lobes only. "Short" means the earrings should hug the ear lobe and measure no more than 1 cm in diameter. Large hoops, dangling, or distracting earrings are not allowed. No body-piercing jewelry is permitted except for traditionally-located ear lobe earrings. Necklaces such as chokers, beaded (colored or otherwise), leather, shells, large or elaborate chain-links, or pendants larger than 1 inch in any direction are not permitted. If a necklace is worn, it must be simple and tucked into the shirt so that it is not visible. A simple analog or digital watch may be worn (**no smartwatches or fitbits – such devices go against the purpose of our uniform and technology policies and can be an external expression of status and distraction in the classroom environment – there are clocks in every classroom**). Any watch that is bluetooth capable and/or has the capability to connect to WIFI or internet is considered a smartwatch. If it does more than tell time, then it is not simple.

Makeup: K–5th Girls may not wear makeup. Fingernails should not be excessively long or painted garishly. Press-on or acrylic nails are not allowed. Fingernails may only be painted in clear, light pink or beige. No shades of red, blue, green, yellow, purple or black are permissible, nor are glittered, speckled, or patterned nail polish.

Any item that is considered a distraction by the teacher may be confiscated and arrangements may be made with the parent to have the item sent home.

Footwear K-5 Boys and Girls:

Students may wear either "Keds School Days" shoes (white and navy blue) or any **all white** or **all black** athletic shoe. **No high tops or style variations please:**

Acceptable Footwear:

- Keds® "School Days II" shoes
- White or black athletic shoes
- Shoes should be without conspicuous brand markings such as a swoosh. If a swoosh is present, it should be the same color as the shoe to ensure the all white or all black style.
- 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. Solid white or solid navy footless tights or leggings are permitted, but socks must be worn. Knit tights for colder weather are also acceptable.
- All socks, tights, and leggings must be plain and free of logos or designs (no polka dots, fishnets, etc.). Plain cable-knit texture is acceptable.

Use the pictures below as general guidance and email the Headmaster directly with photos of any shoes that you would like to purchase that may be in question. The purpose is to have a shoe that is uniform in solid white or black color but can also be used as active wear during PE and recess. The shoe should either be free of a logo or the swoosh should be the same color as the shoe to ensure the all black or all white color. Socks must be visible.

Examples of what to wear:



Examples of what **NOT** to wear:



Additional Requirements for All Students:

Undershirts: Solid white undershirts may be worn but should not be visible (except for a small triangle underneath the collar). Colored or patterned undershirts are not permissible. Long-sleeve

undershirts may only be worn with long-sleeve uniform shirts that cover them completely and therefore should not be worn under short sleeve shirts where they would be visible.

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 Flynn O'Hara or Tommy Hilfiger through Global School Wear, may be worn in the classrooms and building 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.

2.2.12. School Concert and Special Events Dress Code

Concert Dress:

Boys: Black (or dark) dress pants, white button-up dress shirt with black (or dark) necktie. Necktie is required for all boys. 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. No “spaghetti strap” or strapless dresses. **Dresses and skirts should be no shorter than knee-length since students will be on stage.** Black (or dark) dress shoes, black (or dark) dress sandals, black (or dark) ballet flats, heels less than one inch, *or* all-black athletic shoes. All clothing must be modest and not form-fitting.

Special Event Dress:

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 mid-thigh or at least a 5-inch inseam in length, 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.

2.2.13. Backpacks, Lunchboxes, and Water Bottles

Students may bring backpacks, lunchboxes, (non-spill, closed lid) water bottles, 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. Water bottles should be non-spill and closed lid.

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.