



Lower School: Uniform and Dress Code

Great Hearts Northern Oaks 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. haircuts, 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 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 any headmaster or dean before the second week of school.

Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus (including the parking lot) during a school day or when visiting another school's campus. 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 or vouchers for such students. If you would like to request financial assistance, please contact the Director of Campus Operations for more information.

Purchasing Note: Some components of the uniform must be purchased from Flynn O'Hara (www.flynnohara.com) or Dennis Uniforms (431 Isom Rd., www.dennisuniform.com; GHNO school code is VGR); whereas other items can be purchased from other commercial vendors. Please see the note under each item.

Boys Uniform Information

K-4 Boys Uniform

Required:

- Short-sleeve polo or long sleeve polo
Color: white or light blue
Vendor: Dennis or Flynn O'Hara
- Navy-blue pants or navy blue shorts
Vendor: Dennis, Flynn O'Hara, any commercial retailer

Optional:

- Navy-blue sweater or vest – button up or pull-over
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara
- Navy-blue quarter zip sweatshirt with logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara



5-6 Boys Uniform

Required:

- Short-sleeve polo or long sleeve polo (the same as K-4)
Color: white or light blue
Vendor: Dennis or Flynn O'Hara
- Khaki pants or khaki shorts
Vendor: Dennis, Flynn, O'Hara, any commercial retailer



Optional:

- Navy-blue sweater or vest – button up or pull-over
Vendor: Dennis or Flynn O'Hara
- Navy-blue quarter zip sweatshirt with logo
Vendor: Dennis or Flynn O'Hara

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 (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. (Kindergarten is exempt from wearing a belt for toileting purposes.)

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 (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. The shorts must have belt loops and be worn with a dark belt. (Kindergarten is exempt from wearing a belt for toileting purposes.)

K-6 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). Accommodations 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.

Boy's Accessories: No jewelry 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. No artificial coloring of the hair, extreme spiking of the hair or mohawks (including combed down or over and some facsimile of a mohawk). Any item considered a distraction by the teacher may be confiscated and arrangements will be made with the parent to send the item home. 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.

Girls Uniform Information

K-4 Girls Uniform

Required:

- Short-sleeve or long sleeve polo
Color: white or light blue
Vendor: Dennis or Flynn O'Hara
- Navy-blue pants or shorts
Vendor: Dennis, Dennis, Flynn O'Hara, any commercial vendor
AND/OR
Navy-blue and khaki plaid skort
Vendor: Dennis, Flynn O'Hara, any commercial retailer



Optional:

- Navy-blue sweater or vest – button up or pull-over
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara
- Navy-blue quarter zip sweatshirt with logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara

K-2 only: Plaid jumper & peter pan collared shirt
Vendor: Dennis or Flynn O'Hara



5-6 Girls Uniform

Required:

- Short-sleeve or long sleeve polo
Color: white or light blue
Vendor: Dennis or Flynn O'Hara
- Khaki pants or shorts
Vendor: Dennis, Flynn O'Hara, any commercial retailer
AND/OR

Navy-blue and khaki plaid skirt or upper school skirt
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara

Optional:

- Navy-blue sweater or vest – button up or pull-over
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara
- Navy-blue quarter zip sweatshirt with logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara

Skirts & Jumpers: The skirt or jumper hem may be no higher than just above the knee, both in front and in back. To measure a correct skirt/jumper length: properly adjust the skirt at the waist, kneel on a level surface, and measure at least two inches between skirt's hem and the floor. Skirts must be worn at the waist. **5th & 6th grade girls choosing to wear the upper school skirt must still wear modesty shorts underneath.**

Pants: Girls' **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 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, oversized pants, super-baggy pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Slacks should be worn at the waist and no undergarments may be visible including at sports practices and games.

Shorts: Shorts must be worn with a dark, solid belt at least 3/4" wide. 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 (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.

K-6 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 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.

Girls Accessories: K-6 students may not wear make-up or nail polish, except for clear polish. Simple stud-styled earrings may be worn (no dangling or hoop earrings). If a student wears a necklace, it must be tucked into the shirt and not visible. No jewelry 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. 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. The student may be subject to an infraction, detention, and possible removal from the classroom if she is not in compliance with the school dress code.

Footwear K-6 Boys and Girls:

Students may wear either "Keds School Days" shoes (white and navy blue) or any **all white** or **all black** athletic shoe. Students must wear solid white or navy socks that are free of logos. Socks must be visible.

Examples of what to wear:



Examples of what **not** to wear:



Girls: Tights/knitted stockings, knee socks and fold-over socks (including the ruffle ones sold at Dennis) are acceptable and must be solid white or solid navy, free of logos and designs. Leggings are not acceptable cold-weather wear under uniform skirt.

Additional Guidelines for all K-6 students:

No other piercings, body art, jewelry or temporary tattoos should be worn to school. Radical hair color changes during the school year are not permitted. Non-compliance to the school dress code may result in an infraction, detention, and possible removal from the classroom.

Outerwear: The only outerwear allowable to be worn in the school building are the official school sweaters as described in the uniform guidelines. Great Hearts Northern Oaks uniform Navy-blue sweater, and quarter zip sweatshirt with logo may be worn throughout the school day all year long.

Jackets and sweatshirts (including spirit jackets/hoodies with the Griffin logo) may be worn during recess and outdoor transitions for warmth, but must be free of logos and messages, with the following exceptions: **small** sports team logos (e.g., Griffins, Spurs) and **small** brand name logos (e.g. the Ralph Lauren “polo”) are acceptable, provided they are tasteful and do not make inappropriate allusions. **All jackets and sweatshirts must be solid colored and may have no patterns or distracting/oversized logos of any kind.** Jackets and sweatshirts must remain in the lockers, cubbies or desks for the remainder of the school day.

- **Hats and sunglasses** may only be worn on campus at recess and must be stored in their cubby, backpack or locker during the school day.
- No tattoos, temporary or permanent are permitted. This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin.
- No oversized or baggy clothing will be permitted.

5th & 6th grade House Patches: House patches must be worn centered on the left sleeve just above the cuff of the sleeve every day of school – **it is considered part of the 5th & 6th grade uniform.** It should be securely fastened with a simple slipstitch. An initial house patch will be distributed free of charge during the house “naming day,” and additional patches may be purchased through the PSO.

Concert Dress for Winter and Spring Concerts:

K-6 Boys:

Black slacks (not jeans)

Belt

White long sleeved oxford style shirt

Tie or bow tie of any color/pattern (no pop-culture or musical ties)

Dress shoes (no tennis shoes)

K-6 Girls:

Black skirt (knee length or longer)

White blouse or sweater (no tank tops, halter tops or sleeveless unless worn with a white sweater)

Appropriate undergarments

Dress shoes (slight heels are acceptable)

If you are in doubt on an item, please check with your child's teacher or an administrator.

Dress Code for Athletics/Intramurals

All shirts worn for athletic practices and field day should be modest, loose fitting, in good repair (no holes, torn sleeves, 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 should be worn at the waist and 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. If a player would like to wear volleyball spandex shorts, they must be covered by loose fitting athletic shorts.

Jackets and sweatshirts may be worn to school for warmth during recess, transitions but must be free of logos and messages, with the following exceptions: sports team logos (e.g., Lion and Spurs) and apparel. Such jackets are not part of the uniform and will not be worn in class. Please refer to the outerwear guidelines for further information.

Footwear should be athletic in nature: no sandals, open-toed, or platform shoes. Hats and sunscreen may be appropriate if the students will be in the sun. Hat styles should follow the same guidelines as above.

Semi-Formal Events Dress Code

There are specific, semi-formal dress requirements for special events, including periodic fine arts concerts, dances, and the end-of-year ceremonies (such as commencement and graduation).

The semi-formal dress code for young men is as follows: 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.

The semi-formal dress code for the young ladies is as follows: modest-length skirts or dresses (no shorter than the uniform skirt); bare midriffs 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.