

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 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 Assistant 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 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 Business Clerk for more information.

Purchasing Note: Some components of the uniform must be purchased from Dennis Uniforms (Dennis) or Flynn and O’Hara (F&O); whereas other items can be purchased from Old Navy or other vendors. Please see the note under each item.

Upper School Boys Uniforms

7-8 Boys

Required:

- Short-sleeve Polo Shirt
Color: White or Navy blue
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Khaki Pants
Vendor: any
- P.E. Uniform Shorts/T-shirt
Vendor: Dennis/F&O

Optional:

- Navy-blue Sweater
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Quarter Zip-Fleece Pullover
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Khaki Shorts
Vendor: any

9-12 Boys

Required:

- White Oxford Shirt: Long-sleeve
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Khaki Pants
Vendor: any
- Great Hearts Tie
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
(Will not be required daily)
- P.E. Uniform Shorts/T-shirt
(Only Required for 9th Grade)
Vendor: Dennis/F&O

Optional:

- White Oxford Shirt: Short-sleeve
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Khaki Shorts
Vendor: any
- Quarter Zip-Fleece Pullover
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Navy-blue Sweater
Vendor: Dennis/F&O



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 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. Pants should not have visible reinforced knee patches.

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). 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, oversized shorts, super-baggy shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted.

Accessories: White undershirts may be worn underneath the school uniform shirt 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). Boys may wear one simple and tasteful bracelet without logos. Boys may wear one simple and tasteful ring. Piercings are not permitted.

Footwear: 7-12 boys must be **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). When wearing pants, socks must be black, navy, or brown, solid-colored, and free of logos or patterns. When wearing shorts, white socks are allowed, as long as they are free of logos or patterns. No-show socks are not permitted.

Examples of Upper School Boys Shoes that **may be worn:**



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:



Upper School Girls Uniforms

7-8 Girls

Required:

- Polo Shirt: Short
Color: White or Navy blue
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Navy-blue and Khaki Plaid
Skirt with modesty shorts
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- P.E. Uniform Shorts/T-shirt
Vendor: Dennis/F&O

Optional:

- Khaki Shorts (see
specifications on next page)
Vendor: any
- Navy-blue Sweater
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Quarter Zip-Fleece Pullover
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Khaki Pants (see
specifications on next page)
Vendor: any



9-12 Girls

Required:

- White Oxford Shirt: Long-
sleeve or short-sleeve
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Navy-blue and Khaki Plaid
skirt with modesty shorts
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- P.E. Uniform Shorts/T-shirt
(Only Required for 9th Grade)
Vendor: Dennis/F&O

Optional:

- Khaki Pants (See
specifications on next page)
Vendor: any
- Khaki Shorts (See
specifications on next page)
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Navy-blue Sweater
Vendor: Dennis/F&O
- Quarter Zip-Fleece Pullover
Vendor: Dennis/F&O

Blouses: We want our young ladies to move freely and comfortably throughout the school day. Oxford blouses must stay tucked in with the student's choice of skirt, pants, and/or shorts during natural movement throughout the school day (i.e. raising one's hand). Tailored-cut blouses may be untucked but must extend past the waistband of the uniform bottoms enough so that normal movement (i.e. hand-raising) does not reveal skin. When purchasing blouses, consider that, if they are too tight-fitting, they tend to gap in the front, which reveals undergarments and leads to undue embarrassment. If this happens, a student should wear a camisole under the blouse until she is able to purchase a new blouse. No more than the top two buttons may remain unbuttoned.

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 at home: properly adjust the skirt at the waist, kneel on a level surface, and measure at most two inches between skirt's hem and the level surface. Skirts must be worn at the waist.

Pants: Girls may wear traditional full-length straight leg or boot cut khaki pants. "Skinny" pants which are form-fitting down the leg and at the ankle are not allowed. The pants must have belt loops and be worn with a solid, dark belt at least 3/4" wide. Material should be less than 5% stretchable and move freely when worn. Pants should fit properly, meaning that they are not unnecessarily baggy, form-fitting, or excessively tight. Girls' pants must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. No jeans (including khaki-colored denim) or pants with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean-like characteristics are permitted. No 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 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 cargo shorts, super-baggy shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted.

Footwear: Dress shoes which are low-heeled (less than 1.5"), low-soled, or flat and are **solid-color dark brown, dark navy, or black with dark soles** (slip-on or lace-up). Non-athletic saddle shoes that are white and black/blue are also permitted. 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 or navy in color; socks must be a solid navy, white, or black in color. No-show socks 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. Penny-loafers and non-athletic saddle shoes that are white and black/blue are also permitted:



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, boat shoes, suede shoes, high-top shoes, boots, sneakers, tennis shoes, canvas shoes, etc. Examples of Shoes that may **not** be worn are Moccasins, Elaborate/Large Ornament, Patterned Uppers and Cloth Ballet Flats:



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. Loops are not to be larger than the size of a nickel. No body-piercing jewelry except traditionally- located earrings 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).

Makeup: Girls may wear subtle makeup only if it is applied tastefully and in moderation. Heavily lined eyes or 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 pink, classic red, and white. Tasteful French manicures are acceptable. No shades of blue, green, yellow, purple, orange, gray, brown or black are permissible, nor are glittered, speckled, or patterned nail polish.

Additional Standards for All Students

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.

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). Hair that is too long to meet the above standards may be kept in a tight, kempt (no ‘fly-away’ strands of hair), conservative ‘bun’ on the back of the head. Pony-tails and the like are not permitted. 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.

Outerwear: Jackets and sweatshirts may be worn to school for warmth as needed. 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. Students may wear their jackets and sweatshirts outside

the school building from Fall break (mid-October) to Spring break (mid-March) and, on rainy days. The Academy uniform sweaters, quarter-zip pullovers, and Varsity Letterman jackets may be worn throughout the school day all year long.

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.
- No oversized or baggy clothing will be permitted.

Footwear Medical Exemptions: We recognize that a small number of our scholars have unique medical needs that make wearing dress shoes for the length of the school day untenable. For students with written notes from a doctor indicating a medical requirement to wear athletic shoes during the school day, those students *may wear solid ALL black athletic shoes (no high tops)*.

Examples of acceptable ALL black tennis shoes for students with medical exemptions:



Examples of unacceptable tennis shoes:



Spirit Days

There will be designated days throughout the year on which students may wear a school spirit shirt with their regular pants, skirt, or shorts. Any shirt from a GHNO school-sponsored sport, club, or event is considered an official spirit shirt and may be worn on designated spirit shirt days.

Dress Code for Athletics and Special Events

All shirts worn for athletic practices and field day 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, 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.

Jackets and sweatshirts may be worn to school for warmth. They should be tasteful, in good repair, and free from any reference inappropriate for school (i.e. pop culture).

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.

School Concert Dress Code

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

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

Semi-Formal Events Dress Code

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

The semi-formal dress code for young men is as follows. Boys should wear dress slacks (no jeans or patched pocket pants), a dress shirt, tie, dress socks, dress shoes. Dyed/bleached hair is not permitted. Hair should be trimmed and styled appropriately.

The semi-formal dress code for young ladies is as follows. Girls should wear modest-length skirts or dresses (no shorter than the uniform skirt) or dress pants. Shirts or blouses should be tasteful and appropriate for the occasion. Bare midriffs, tight-fitting outfits, strapless tops, spaghetti-straps, and low-cut shirts are not allowed. Girls should wear dress shoes. Dress sandals (open-toed dress shoes) may be worn, but flip-flops are not permitted. Dyed/bleached hair is not permitted.

Please note, the Family Barn Dance is considered a semi-formal event and attire should follow the above guidelines. However, jeans, hats, boots, and other types of western wear are encouraged for this occasion.