

Uniform and Dress Code

Great Hearts Forest Heights 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 uniform items 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. 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 economically disadvantaged students as provided in the Texas Education Code. The Academy may provide a uniform for such students. If you would like to request financial assistance, please contact the GHFH Office Staff, at info@greatheartsforestheights.org for more information.

Purchasing Note: Some components of the uniform must be purchased from Dennis Uniforms (431 Isom Rd., www.dennisuniform.com) or FlynnO'Hara (2108A NW Military Hwy, flynnohara.com) whereas other items can be purchased from Old Navy or other vendors. Please see the note under each item.

Boys Uniform Guidelines

K-5 Boys Uniform

Required:

- Short sleeve polo or long sleeve polo
Color: white or light blue
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms/FlynnO'Hara
- Navy pants or navy shorts
Vendor: Any



Optional:

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



Pants/Shorts must have belt loops and a solid, single color, black, brown, or navy belt (at least 3/4" wide must be used). (Kindergarten students are exempt from wearing a belt for toileting purposes.) **No jeans 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/Shorts** should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Pants/Shorts should be worn at the waist (and no boxers or undergarments may be visible – including at sports practices and games). All **dress pants** must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. The length of **Shorts** should extend to just above the knee but not below.

K-5 Grooming for Boys

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. No jewelry or smart watches are permitted. A watch may be worn as long as it does not become a distraction.

Girls Uniform Guidelines

K-5 Girls Uniform

Required:

- Short sleeve or long sleeve polo
Color: white or light blue
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms/FlynnO'Hara
- Navy pants or navy shorts
Vendor: Any
- Navy and khaki plaid skort (K-6th) or skirt
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms/FlynnO'Hara



Optional:

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

K-2 only: Plaid jumper & peter pan collared shirt (to be worn together and not to be combined with other uniform items.)

Vendor: Dennis Uniforms/FlynnO'Hara

Skirts & Jumpers: The skirt or jumper hem may be no higher than just above the knee, both in front and in back. Parents: 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 floor. Skirts must be worn at the waist. **Girls choosing to wear the upper school skirt or K-2nd grade students choosing to wear the jumper must still wear solid black or navy modesty shorts underneath.**

Pants/Shorts must have belt loops and a solid, single color, black, brown, or navy belt (at least 3/4" wide must be used). See pictures in Boy Uniform Guidelines for reference. (Kindergarten students are exempt from wearing a belt for toileting purposes.) **No jeans 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/Shorts** should not be excessively tight or loose fitting and should be worn at the waist with no undergarments visible including at sports practices and games. All **dress pants** must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. The length of **Shorts** should extend to just above the knee but not below.

K-5 Grooming for Girls:

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. K-8 students may not wear make-up or nail polish. Fingernails may not be painted with any form of nail polish. Small silver or gold studded 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 or smart watches are permitted. A watch may be worn as long as it does not become a distraction.

Footwear K- 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 hightops). Any mixture of white and black shoes is limited to logo and/or sole only and may not include decorative detailing or other colors. Shoes may have laces (to be tied at all times) or Velcro closures. Slip-on and Mary Jane style shoes are not acceptable. *Please, if possible, avoid the K-Swiss all white shoes because it is very difficult to keep them tied and are not suitable for PE/athletics.* Students must wear solid white, black, or navy socks that are free of logos. Socks must be visible. No-show socks are not permitted.

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

Additional Guidelines for all K-5 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 will result in discipline.

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 Forest Heights uniform Navy-blue sweater, vest, 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 Falcon 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., Falcons, 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.

Concert Dress for Winter and Spring Concerts:

K-5 Boys:

Black slacks (not jeans)

Black belt

White long sleeved oxford style shirt

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

Black socks

Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)

Hair needs to be combed and out of the eyes and not distracting to the scholar nor the audience.

K-5 Girls:

Option 1: A black skirt (knee length or longer) with a white blouse or sweater

Option 2: A dress that is white on top and black on bottom

Option 3: An all-black dress with white sweater.

Dresses and skirts may be no higher than 2 inches above the knee. No sleeveless, tank tops, halter tops or spaghetti straps are allowed unless worn with a white sweater. Girls must wear black dress shoes or dress sandals (no flip-flops, high heels, or boots). Slight heels are acceptable. Girls may choose but are not required to wear black or nude tights. Hair needs to be combed and out of the eyes and not distracting to the scholar nor the audience. If you are in doubt on an item, please check with your child's music 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 (including spirit jackets/hoodies with the Falcon 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., Falcons, 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.**

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.