



Upper School Uniform Guidelines

2024-2025

Revisions

The Headmaster of the Academy maintains the right to amend these guidelines during the course of the year when it is deemed necessary. If this is the case, changes will be posted on the Academy's website.

Uniform & Dress Code

Great Hearts 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 in our school community, a visible signature of our school to the larger community, and an indicator of our unity and 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 the wearer of that purpose and of one's responsibility to that group. Our school is 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 one particular element of the uniform that "matters" more than any of the others; rather, the uniform as a whole matters.

While students are responsible for their clothing and appearance, it is parents and caregivers who are responsible for providing the conditions required to meeting the standard, i.e. correct shoes and properly fitting clothing. The adults in our scholars lives are urged to understand the uniform requirements, 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 student to be corrected for a uniform violation, and repeated uniform issues can become enormous distractions.

Our uniform is the basis of a dress code with a professional, business-like standard. Students should dress their best, look their best, and do their best. All clothing must be clean, neat, reasonably pressed, and properly fitting. If a scholar 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 Dean of Students prior to purchasing.

Judgement about the appropriateness of apparel may be referred to the Headmaster, whose decision 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 Dean of Students before the second week of school.

Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus (including the parking lot) during the 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 a 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 or FlynnO'Hara, other items may be purchased from any vendor.

Upper School Boys Uniforms

6th-8th Grade Boys

Required:

- Polo Shirt with Logo - Short or Long Sleeved
Color: White or Navy
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Khaki Shorts or Pants
Vendor: Any
- Leather/Vegan Leather Belt with Buckle
Color: Black or Brown
Vendor: Any
- P.E. Uniform: Tee Shirt with Logo & Athletic Shorts with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara



Optional:

- Navy Pullover Sweater or Sweater Vest with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Navy Quarter-zip Sweatshirt with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Full Zip Fleece Jacket with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara



Pants: All pants must reach to the shoe, but should not drag on the ground. Pants must have belt loops and a solid (non-woven), black or brown leather belt must be used. **No jeans (including khaki-colored denim) or pants with externally sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean-like characteristics are permitted.** Dickies, cargo pants, oversized pants, super-baggy pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams **will not** be permitted. Pants should not have visible reinforced knee patches.

Shorts: Shorts should hit just above the knee but not below, and neither excessively tight nor loose fitting. Shorts are to be worn at the waist. Boxers and/or undergarments **may not be visible** (including at sports practices and games). Shorts must have belt loops and a solid (non-woven), black or brown leather belt must be used. **No jean shorts (including khaki-colored denim) or shorts with externally sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean like characteristics are permitted.** Dickies, cargo shorts, oversized shorts, super-baggy shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, and extra seams **will not be** permitted.

Accessories: White undershirts may be worn underneath the school uniform shirt but should not be visible. Boys may wear any of the following:

- A single chain/necklace, not visible above the collar
- A simple watch (not a smart watch)
- One simple, tasteful bracelet without logo
- One simple, tasteful ring
- Piercings are not permitted.

9th-12th Grade Boys (Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors)

Required:

- White Oxford Shirt with Logo - Short or Long Sleeved
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Khaki Shorts or Pants
Vendor: Any
- Leather/Vegan Leather Belt with Buckle
Color: Black or Brown
Vendor: Any
- Great Hearts School Tie (not worn daily)
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- P.E. Uniform: Tee Shirt with Logo & Athletic Shorts with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara



Optional:

- Navy Pullover Sweater or Sweater Vest with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Navy Quarter-zip Sweatshirt with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Full Zip Fleece Jacket with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara



Pants: All pants must reach to the shoe, but should not drag on the ground. Pants must have belt loops and a solid (non-woven), black or brown leather belt must be used. **No jeans (including khaki-colored denim) or pants with externally sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean-like characteristics are permitted.** Dickies, cargo pants, oversized pants, super-baggy pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams **will not** be permitted. Pants should not have visible reinforced knee patches.

Shorts: Shorts should hit just above the knee but not below, and neither excessively tight nor loose fitting. Shorts are to be worn at the waist. Boxers and/or undergarments **may not be visible** (including at sports practices and games). Shorts must have belt loops and a solid (non-woven), black or brown leather belt must be used. **No jean shorts (including khaki-colored denim) or shorts with externally sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean like characteristics are permitted.** Dickies, cargo shorts, oversized shorts, super-baggy shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, and extra seams **will not be** permitted.

Accessories:

White undershirts may be worn underneath the school uniform shirt but should not be visible. Socks must be a solid color: white, black, navy, or dark brown, extend above the ankle and be free of visible brand logos, patterns, or decorations. Boys may wear any of the following:

A single chain/necklace, not visible above the collar
A simple watch - **smart watches are not permitted**
One simple, tasteful bracelet without logo
One simple, tasteful ring
Piercings are not permitted.

Grooming for Boys

Boys' Hair: Hair should be neatly combed or styled so that it does not fall below the eyebrows or past the midpoint of the ear. Hair must be above the top of the shirt collar. 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, tidy (no 'fly-away' strands of hair), conservative 'bun' or pony-tail on the back of the head. 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.

Upper School Shoe Policy

(Updated for 2023-2024)

Example of shoes that may be worn by boys:

Dark brown or black laced leather or vegan leather dress shoes with dark soles (Oxfords, Derbys); Dark brown or black leather or vegan leather loafer dress shoes (slip-on); Solid ALL black or white athletic shoes (no high tops).

Students will be required to wear dress shoes for certain school events.

As a reminder, dress shoes require periodic hand cleaning and polishing/conditioning.



Examples of shoes that are not permitted :

Semi-casual shoes, shoes that are a cross between dress shoes and sneakers (ketcher's and similar styles), boat shoes, suede shoes, high-top shoes, boots, canvas shoes, etc.



Upper School Girls Uniforms

6th-8th Grades Girls

Required:

- Polo Shirt with Logo - Short or Long Sleeved
Color: White or Navy
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Plaid (navy blue and khaki) skirt with modesty short
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- P.E. Uniform: Tee Shirt with Logo &
Athletic Shorts with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara



Optional:

- Khaki Shorts or Pants with Belt
Vendor: Any
- Navy Cardigan Sweater with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Navy Pullover Sweater or Sweater Vest with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Quarter-zip Sweatshirt with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Full Zip Fleece Jacket with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara



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.

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.

Accessories:

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.

Girls may wear any of the following:

One pair of short earrings (may not hang more than ½ inch below the ear lobe) only on the ear lobes. Large hoops, dangling, or distracting earrings are not permitted. Hoops 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

One wrist bracelet, one watch - **smart watches are not permitted**

One necklace: fine-gauged, 16 to 20 inch, silver or gold chain necklaces with or without a pendant (smaller than 1" inch in length, width, and diameter)

The following are not permitted: chokers, beaded necklaces, leather necklaces, shells, large or elaborate chain-link, large or elaborate pendants

9th-12th Grades Girls

Required:

- White Short Sleeved Blouse or Long Sleeved Oxford Shirt with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Plaid (navy blue and khaki) skirt with modesty
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- P.E. Uniform: Tee Shirt with Logo & Athletic Shorts with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara



Optional:

- Khaki Shorts or Pants with Belt
Vendor: Any
- Navy Cardigan Sweater with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Navy Pullover Sweater or Sweater Vest with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Quarter-zip Sweatshirt with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or FlynnO'Hara
- Full Zip Fleece Jacket with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara



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: 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.

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.

Accessories:

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.

Girls may wear any of the following:

- One pair of short earrings (may not hang more than ½ inch below the ear lobe) only on the ear lobes. Large hoops, dangling, or distracting earrings are not permitted. Hoops 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

- One wrist bracelet, one watch - **smart watches are not permitted**

- One necklace: fine-gauged, 16 to 20 inch, silver or gold chain necklaces with or without a pendant (smaller than 1" inch in length, width, and diameter)

The following are not permitted: chokers, beaded necklaces, leather necklaces, shells, large or elaborate chain-link, large or elaborate pendants

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.

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.

Updated PE Items:

Heavy Weight Crew Sweatshirt with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniform or Flynn O'Hara



Heavy Weight Sweatpants with Logo
Vendor: Dennis Uniform or Flynn O'Hara

Upper School Shoe Policy

(Updated for 2023-2024)

Examples of shoes that may be worn by girls:

Black, dark brown, dark navy, or black with dark soles; leather or vegan leather dress shoe with a heel of less than 1.5 inches and low sole; Oxfords with a leather sole; penny loafers; non-athletic leather or vegan leather saddle shoes that are white and black/blue All black athletic shoes The shoes may have a simple ornament the same color of the shoe, silver or gold color; no rhinestones, glitter, or patterned uppers.



The following styles are **examples of shoes that are not permitted**: High top athletic shoes, boots, moccasins, elaborate or large decoration, patterned uppers and cloth slippers.



Additional Standards for All Students

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.

Miscellaneous 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.

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 GHFH 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, 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.