



Great Hearts Arlington
6th-8th Grade
Uniform Policy Overview
2023-2024

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The Headmaster of the Academy maintains the right to amend this handbook 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 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 appropriate Dean, whose judgment, in consultation with the Headmaster and Assistant Headmaster 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 Upper School Dean.

Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus (including the parking lot) during a school day. Students must be in uniform "car to car." 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 Registrar for more information.

Purchasing Note: Some components of the uniform must be purchased from Dennis Uniforms www.dennisuniform.com and/or Flynn O'Hara Uniforms www.flynnohara.com; whereas other items can be purchased from any vendor. Please see the note under each item.

Middle School Girls (Grades 6-8)

<u>Required Tops</u>	<u>Required Bottoms</u>	<u>Optional Items</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-sleeved branded Polo shirt OR Long-sleeved branded Polo shirt <p>Color: White or Navy blue</p> <p>Vendor: Dennis Uniforms, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pants (with belt) OR Shorts (with belt) <p>Color: Khaki</p> <p>Vendor: Dennis Uniforms, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms, or bottoms of the same fabric and style as approved vendors</p> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plaid Skirt with modesty shorts <p>Color: GHA approved plaid</p> <p>Vendor: Dennis Uniforms, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweater: Vest, V-neck, or Cardigan <p>Color: Navy blue with White Varsity stripe</p> <p>Vendor: Dennis Uniforms, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweatshirts: Quarter-zip or Full-zip <p>Color: Navy blue</p> <p>Vendor: Dennis Uniforms, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms</p>

All Middle School Girls

Shirts: Shirts must be tucked into bottoms and only the top button of a scholar's shirt may be unbuttoned.

Skirts: The skirt hem may be no higher than 1-inch above the knee, both in front and in back. Skirts must be worn at the waist. Modesty shorts are required.

Pants: Girls' 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 at least 3/4" wide must be used. No jeans (including khaki-colored denim) or pants with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jeans-like characteristics are permitted. No Dickies, cargo pants, jeggings, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Pants should be worn at the waist. Pants should not be excessively tight or loose fitting.

Shorts: Shorts must go to just above the knee no higher than 1-inch, but not below. Shorts must be worn at the waist and should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Shorts must have belt loops and be worn with a dark, solid leather belt at least 3/4" wide. No jean shorts (including khaki-colored denim) or shorts with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jeans like characteristics are permitted. No Dickies, cargo shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Shorts are only permitted for Middle School Students.

Footwear: 6th-8th grade students may wear any all-white or all-black, including the sole, athletic shoe (no high-tops). Middle School girls may also *choose* to wear dress shoes which are low-heeled (less than 1"), low-soled, or flat and are solid-color dark brown, dark navy, or black with dark soles (slip-on). 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 may be of simple silver or gold color; no rhinestones, glitter, or patterned uppers. Nylons or tights must be non-patterned, solid black, navy, or white in color; socks must be a solid black, navy, or white in color. Socks must cover the ankle-bone and go no higher than the knee. No-show socks, leggings, and footless tights are not permitted.

Girls' Hair: Hair should be neatly combed or styled. Small bows, barrettes, headbands, hair beads, head coverings, and hair ties are permissible in the colors of white, navy, beige, and black. Hair must be natural looking in color (no bleaching or unnatural streaking/highlighting, no artificial jet-black coloring, and no unnatural colors) and cut in a way that does not distract from the learning environment. Accommodations for religious reasons are permitted.

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. No body-piercing jewelry will be permitted. One simple ring on each hand is permitted. One wrist bracelet, one watch (Smart watches are not permissible) and one small necklace are permitted. All accessories must be solid black, white, gold, or silver. All pop-culture rules and policies apply.

Makeup: Girls may wear subtle makeup. Clear lip gloss is permitted; lipstick is prohibited. Heavily lined, glittered, or smokey eyes and glittered or white powdered faces will not be permitted. Fingernails should be short and unpainted or painted in solid light to medium pink or beige. Traditional French manicures are acceptable as long as they meet the aforementioned standard.

Middle School Boys (Grades 6-8)

<u>Required Tops</u>	<u>Required Bottoms</u>	<u>Optional Items</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-sleeved branded Polo shirt OR Long-sleeved branded Polo shirt <p>Color: White or Navy blue</p> <p>Vendor: Dennis Uniforms, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pants (with belt) OR Shorts (with belt) <p>Color: Khaki</p> <p>Vendor: Dennis Uniforms, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms, or bottoms of the same fabric and style as approved vendors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweater: Vest, V-neck, or Cardigan <p>Color: Navy blue with White Varsity stripe</p> <p>Vendor: Dennis Uniforms, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweatshirts: Quarter-zip or Full-zip <p>Color: Navy blue</p> <p>Vendor: Dennis Uniforms, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms</p>

All Middle School Boys

Shirts: Scholar shirts must be tucked into their pants or shorts and only the top button of a scholar's polo may be unbuttoned.

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 at least $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide must be used. No denim (including khaki-colored denim) or pants with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jeans-like characteristics are permitted. No Dickies, cargo pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Pants should not have visible reinforced knee patches. Pants should not be excessively tight or loose fitting

Shorts: Shorts should go to just above the knee (no higher than 1-inch) but not below. 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 jeans like characteristics are permitted. No Dickies, cargo shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Shorts should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Shorts are only for Middle School Students.

Footwear: 6th-8th grade students may wear any all-white or all-black, including the sole, athletic shoe (no high-tops). Middle School boys may also *choose* to wear 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). Socks must be a solid black or navy in color, and free of logos or patterns. Socks must cover the ankle-bone and be “crew length”. No-show socks are not permitted.

Boys’ Hair: Hair should be neatly combed or styled. Hair should be styled so that it does not fall below the eyebrows. Hair must be natural looking in color (no bleaching or unnatural streaking/highlighting, no artificial jet-black coloring, and no unnatural colors) and cut in a way that does not distract from the learning environment. 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.

Accessories: Undershirts may be worn, 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). Bracelets, rings, and piercings are not permitted.

Additional Standards for All Students

Outerwear: Jackets and sweatshirts may be worn to school for warmth but must be free of logos, messages, large images, and pop culture references with the following exceptions: small sports team logos (e.g. Cowboys, Rangers) and small brand name logos (e.g. the Ralph Lauren “polo” logo) are acceptable, provided they are tasteful and do not make inappropriate allusions. Students must remove their jackets and sweatshirts upon arrival and store them in their lockers by the start of first period. Jackets and sweatshirts may be worn during recess and other outdoor activities, including outside lunch. The approved Great Heart’s sweater, V-neck, vest, cardigan, full-zip and quarter-zip sweatshirts may be worn throughout the school day all year long. A Great Hearts polo is required underneath all outerwear.

Perfume/Cologne/Deodorant: Spray perfume, cologne, and deodorant is not allowed due to the health risk it poses to some students and faculty.

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.
- Neither extreme of oversized/baggy clothing or of tight/form fitting clothing will be permitted