



GreatHearts[®]
Arlington

Academy Dress Code

Great Hearts Arlington 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 dress code 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 dress code violation, and repeated 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 attire that does not meet the standard, the parent will be notified, and a change of clothing may be required for attendance that day. If in doubt about an article of clothing, check with a school administrator before purchasing.

Decisions about 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 or special needs (e.g., a medical condition); parents should address specific concerns with the administration before the second week of school, or as soon as possible in the case of an unforeseen situation.

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 voucher for such students. If you would like to request financial assistance, please contact the front desk for more information.

Purchasing Note: Some components of the uniform must be purchased from Flynn O’Hara Uniforms (www.flynnohara.com) or Global Schoolwear (<https://www.globalschoolwear.com/>), whereas other items can be purchased from other vendors. Please see the note under each item.

Boys Uniform Guidelines

Required:

- Short or long sleeve polo with logo
K-5: White or light blue
Vendor: Flynn O’Hara/Global Schoolwear
Uniform pants or shorts
K-5: Navy
Vendor: Any (style and fabric must be comparable to Flynn O’Hara/Global Schoolwear)



Optional:

- Navy sweater
K-5: V-neck pullover or cardigan with logo
Vendor: Flynn O’Hara/Global Schoolwear
K-5: Navy quarter-zip sweatshirt with logo
Vendor: Flynn O’Hara/Global Schoolwear

Pants/Shorts must have belt loops and a solid black, brown, or navy belt (at least 3/4" wide) must be worn. (Kindergarten is exempt from the requirement for belt loops and a belt due to toileting purposes.) No fabric or woven belts are permitted. No jeans, Dickies, cargo 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 undergarments may be visible. Pants must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below.

Girls Uniform Guidelines

Required:

- Short or long sleeve polo with logo
K-5: White or light blue
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara/Global Schoolwear
- Uniform pants or shorts*
K-5: Navy

Vendor: Any (style and fabric must be comparable to Flynn O'Hara/Global Schoolwear)

- Skirts, skorts, or jumpers*
K-2: Plaid jumper (Peter-Pan collar blouse must be worn with jumper)
K-5: Plaid skort
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara/Global Schoolwear

* Girls have the option of wearing pants/shorts or a skirt/skort/jumper. Jumper is only permitted for K-2 students.

Optional:

- Navy sweater
K-5: V-neck pullover or cardigan with logo
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara/Global Schoolwear
K-5: Navy quarter-zip sweatshirt with logo
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara/Global Schoolwear

Skirts & Jumpers: The skirt, skort or jumper must be worn at the waist and the hem must touch the top of the knee and should fall to the same length in both the front and the back. To measure a correct length, properly adjust the skirt at the waist, ask your daughter to move around for a few minutes, see where the skirt has landed after movement, and adjust the skirt hem as needed to meet the length requirement.

Girls choosing to wear the skirt or jumper must wear solid black or navy spandex shorts beneath their skirts.

Pants/Shorts must have belt loops and a solid black, brown, or navy belt (at least 3/4" wide) must be worn. (Kindergarten is exempt from the requirement for belt loops and a belt due to toileting purposes.) No fabric or woven belts are permitted. No jeans, 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 undergarments may be visible. Pants must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below.



Footwear Guidelines (All Students)

K- students may wear either Keds School Days shoes (white and navy blue) or any all-white or all-black athletic shoe (no high-tops). Shoes may have laces (which must always be tied) or Velcro closures (K-2 students only). Slip-on and Mary Jane style shoes are not acceptable.

Students must wear solid white, black, or navy socks that are free of logos. Socks must be visible. No-show socks are not permitted. For girls, tights/knitted stockings, knee socks and fold-over socks (including the ruffle ones sold at Dennis/Flynn O'Hara are acceptable). Leggings are not acceptable under the uniform skirt.



Backpacks, Lunch Boxes, and Water Bottles

Backpacks, lunch boxes, and water bottles should be appropriate for school and free of pop culture images or references. Examples of acceptable backpacks:



All students will need a water bottle for school every day. For safety reasons, we ask that water bottles be made of plastic or metal, not glass.

Examples of acceptable water bottles:



Hair, Jewelry, Grooming, and Makeup

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). Accommodations for religious reasons are permitted.

Jewelry, K-5: 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 (no Smartwatches permitted), 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). Boys may not wear earrings.

Grooming: Hair and nails should be clean and trimmed. Hands and face should be clean. No tattoos, temporary or permanent, are permitted. This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin.

Makeup and Nail Polish: Students in K-5 may not wear makeup. Fingernails may only be painted in light pink, clear, or beige. No shades of red, blue, green, yellow, purple, or black are permissible, nor are glittered, speckled, or patterned nail polish.

Outerwear

Inside the academic building. Official school sweaters as described in the uniform guidelines are the only outerwear allowed to be worn in the school building. The uniform sweaters and quarter-zip sweatshirt may be worn year-round throughout the school day.

Outside the academic building. Jackets and sweatshirts (including spirit jackets/hoodies with the GHLS 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., Mavericks, TCU) and small brand name logos (e.g., the Ralph Lauren "polo"), provided they do not detract from the academy culture. Hats and sunglasses may only be worn at recess. All outerwear, including hats and sunglasses, must remain in the lockers, backpacks, or cubbies when not in use.

Athletics and Intramurals

Physical activity and friendly competition are important parts of Academy life. Performance and enjoyment of athletic events is greatly enhanced by functional attire that reflects the Academy's culture.

All shirts worn for athletic practices and field day should be 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 midribs may be visible. Tank tops, camisoles, or sports bras may not be worn as outer garments.

Pants/shorts should be worn at the waist and provide for freedom of movement (neither excessively loose nor tight). Shorts should be no shorter than mid-thigh and no-longer than just below the knee.

Pants/shorts should be in good repair (no holes, torn sleeves, etc.); no undergarments may be visible. If a player would like to wear spandex or compression pants or shorts, they must be covered by loose fitting athletic shorts.

Footwear should be athletic in nature: no sandals, open-toed, or platform shoes are permitted.

Approved outerwear, including hats and sunglasses, may be worn according to Academy guidelines (see above). When appropriate, sunscreen may be used. All athletic attire should be free of logos and messages, except for GHA and sports team logos (e.g., Archers, Mavericks), provided they do not detract from the Academy culture.

Semi-Formal Events

Special moments in the life of the Academy, including dances and end-of-year ceremonies (such as promotion), are signified by semi-formal dress. Specific guidelines for attire for semi-formal events will be communicated as events are scheduled and announced.