



Great Hearts Arlington Upper School

Student Uniform

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 Upper School Dean Justin McGee 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.

All Upper School Boys

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, 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 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 jean 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.

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 and piercings are not permitted. Footwear: Upper School boys must 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 black or navy solid-colored, and free of logos or patterns. No-show socks are not permitted.

Shoes:

Examples of Upper School Boys Shoes that may be worn are Dress Loafer or Dress Oxford:



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.

6th-8th Grade Girls

Purchasing Note: Some components of the uniform need to be purchased from Dennis Uniforms www.dennisuniform.com whereas other items can be purchased from vendor. Please see the note under each item. **Girls may choose ONE or more from the following required uniform options.**

CHOICE 1:

- Short-sleeve Polo shirt

Color: White or Navy Blue

Vendor: Dennis Uniforms/Flynn O'Hara

- Pants (with belt)

Color: Khaki

Vendor: Any

OR

- Shorts (with belt)

Color: Khaki

Vendor: Any

- P.E. Uniform Shorts and T-shirt
 - Winter PE Uniform Sweatshirt and Sweatpants

Vendor: Dennis Uniforms/Flynn O'Hara



CHOICE 2:

- Short-sleeve Polo shirt

Color: White or Navy Blue

Vendor: Dennis Uniforms/Flynn O'Hara

- Navy-blue and Khaki Plaid Skirt with modesty shorts

Vendor: Dennis Uniforms/Flynn O'Hara

- P.E. Uniform Shorts and T-shirt
 - Optional Winter PE Uniform Sweatshirt and Sweatpants

Vendor: Dennis Uniforms/Flynn O'Hara

Optional:

- Shorts (with belt)

Color: Khaki

Vendor: Any

- Sweater: Vest, V-Neck, or Cardigan
 - Color: Navy Blue with White Varsity Stripe
 - Vendor: Dennis Uniforms/Flynn O'Hara

All Upper School Girls

Skirts & Jumpers: The skirt or jumper hem may be no higher than just above the knee, both in front and in back. To measure a correct skirt/jumper 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' **pants** must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. The pants must have belt loops and a solid, dark belt at least 3/4" wide 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, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Slacks should be worn at the waist. Pants should not be excessively tight or loose fitting.

Shorts: Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below. Shorts should be worn at the waist. 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 Dickies, cargo shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Shorts should be worn at the waist and should not be excessively tight or loose fitting.

Footwear: 6-8 girls are to wear **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). 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 black, navy, or white in color. No ankle-high socks are permitted with long pants. Footless tights or leggings 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:



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 or beige. Tasteful French manicures are acceptable. No shades of red, blue, green, yellow, purple or black are permissible, nor are glittered, speckled, or patterned nail polish.

Additional Standards for All Students

Hair: Should be neatly combed or styled. Neat bows, barrettes, headbands, and “scrunchies” are permissible for girls. Hair should not be arranged or colored so as to draw undue attention to the student. Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color (no bleaching or unnatural streaking/highlighting, no deep/bright reds or oranges, no artificial jet-black coloring, and no unnatural colors). Radical changes in hair color during the school year are unacceptable.

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 but must be free of logos and messages, with the following exceptions: small sports team logos (e.g., Cowboys, Rangers) and small brand name logos the Ralph Lauren “polo” are acceptable, provided they are tasteful and do not make inappropriate allusions. Students must store their jackets and sweatshirts their lockers by the start of first period. Jackets and sweatshirts may be worn during recess and other outdoor activities. However, students may wear their jackets and sweatshirts at lunch from Fall break (mid-October) to Spring break (mid-March) and, on rainy days, students may wear the aforementioned clothing during the day only outside the classroom. The Academy uniform sweaters 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.

Dress Code for Special Events

All shirts worn for special events 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 pant legs, etc.). Pants and shorts 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.

Semi-Formal Events Dress Code

There are specific, semi-formal dress requirements for special events, including 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: 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.