

Dress for Excellence

Uniform Expectations: General Rules for Attire and Appearance

Why do most Catholic schools require uniforms? The tradition goes back to Medieval times when caps and gowns were required at universities. Thus, all students regardless of background dressed alike, and all would show an outward sign of their dedication to the task of learning together within the university community.

In other words, from the very beginning, uniforms have been in support of three goals: modesty, professionalism, and community, or school spirit. Our uniform policy aims at the same three goals.

We ask the students to wear the uniform so they look professional. The work that we do at school is part of a student's life that is extraordinary, set apart from the ordinary routines of life.

In our Western tradition, we dress up for extraordinary events to show their importance and our respect for those who participate in them with us. We dress up for Mass and for the work day, and we dress up for school.

We ask that the uniforms are neat and clean, that cuffs are rolled down and buttoned, that ties are neatly fastened, and that accessories are fitting for a professional environment.

Learning to maintain a neat appearance is part of a student's education. Students should always be fully in uniform while on school grounds unless participating in a school-sponsored activity with permission to change fully out of uniform. Students must arrive and leave school in full uniform, including the blazer.

It is the responsibility of both the parents and the student to know and abide by the school dress code standards and uniform expectations.

Blazers, shirts, sweaters, trousers, skirts, ties and belts, must be **labeled** with the student's name (e.g., John Smith or Smith). The label should be placed on the inside collar of the blazer, shirt and sweater, on the inside of the trousers and skirts, and

on the back of the tie and belt. This simple expedient will help ensure that we can always identify which uniform items belong to which students.

All uniform items should be purchased through Schoolbelles. This will streamline the process and help us maintain the highest standards of uniformity in the dress code during the entire school year.

Schoolbelles: www.schoolbelles.com

OUT OF UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

On special occasions, we will invite students to attend school or school-sponsored events (e.g., dances, field trips, retreats, etc.) out of their uniforms. If students choose to attend an out-of-uniform event in their uniforms, they must meet all standards of being fully *in uniform* (e.g., shirt tucked in, modest accessories, proper shoes, correct sweater/blazer/apparel, etc.).

The out-of-uniform expectations are event-specific and will be announced before each event, but are the same for sporting events. However, they will include at all times:

- No ripped or dirty clothing.
- No pajama pants at any school event or practice.
- No overly revealing clothing. For example, there should be no cut-outs in clothing (e.g., shoulder or midriff cutouts), overly tight clothing (any leggings), or short skirts (that hit above the knee).
- No text or imagery that does not align with our mission.

If at any time during the school year these policies need to be changed, parents and students will be informed. Please be aware that the final interpretation of dress policies resides with the Headmaster and Executive Director.

Uniform Standards for the Ladies

Ladies should aim for a **simple elegance** that is appropriate for these years. Uniforms should always be clean and blouses always tucked in. Additionally:

- Makeup for ladies must be light, simple, and natural-looking. Foundation, light mascara, and light blush may be worn, but no eyeliner or eye shadow.

Chapstick or clear or light lip-gloss is allowed. No colored lipstick or colored lip-gloss are allowed.

- Nail polish is allowed but should be muted, tasteful, and professional. Nails should be clean and of moderate length.
- Hair accessories should be tasteful and professional. No athletic headbands, no bandana headbands, no bright distracting colors. Color of hair accessories should complement the uniform.
- Ladies' hair should be neatly groomed and clean at all times. Hair color should be natural hues. No streaks of unnatural colors (reds, pinks, greens, etc.) on any part of hair. No extreme haircuts.
- Girls may wear one stud in each earlobe (matching).
- A simple chain necklace with religious significance and/or a scapular may be worn under the shirt for girls and boys.
- One bracelet and one watch may be worn. (No smart watches allowed, including fitbits).
- No lapel pins.
- All jewelry should be tasteful, professional, and not excessive in size or number.
- No perfumes are allowed.
- No head gear may be worn inside the building (winter hats, baseball caps, etc.).

ITEM	COLOR	DESCRIPTION	SCHOOLBELLES STYLE #
Blazer	Navy w/ logo	Required at certain school events and daily from October 15 to May 1.	#5820
Skirt	Navy	Length required is <u>mid-knee</u> to below knee. If full kneecap is exposed while standing straight, the skirt is too short. The skirt is to be no shorter than the crease of the back of the knee. This usually requires ordering a size long . The skirt should be worn on the waist and not on the hip.	#3521 Two Kick Pleated Skirt Color: 4204
Oxford Shirt	White	Basic white Oxford. Collar buttons must be buttoned at all times. The shirt must not gap in front, and there should be no pulling on the buttons. The sleeves may not be rolled at any time.	#1770 Short Sleeve #1771 Long Sleeve Color: White - 17

Modesty Shorts	Navy or Black	Navy or black bike shorts should be worn under the skirt at all times.	
Knee Socks	Navy	Knee highs must reach knee. Opaque, not cable.	#1640
Dress Shoes	Solid Black	Must be a dress shoe with closed toe and full back; may be a lace-up dress shoe or include simple ornaments (e.g. bow, tassel). No Keds, Sperrys, Vans, Toms or Converse or similarly-styled shoe. No tags/labels/symbols on outside of shoe. No moccasins, canvas, or suede.	
Sweater/Vest	Navy with Logo	The sweater is a finishing item, like the blazer. Vest is required at some school events and from October 15 – May 1. Long sleeve is optional, and would be wearable until October 15 and after May 1.	#1964 #1983
Ladies' Choir Attire	Black	Black, floor-length formal dress. Solid black dress flats. Dress should be hemmed to touch front toe of shoe. Purchase from www.stageaccents.com . #5269 Dahlia girls or #8864 Dahlia Ladies	N/A
PE Attire		-Plain, loose-fitting gray T-shirt. It should not have any large graphics or branding. Small brands are OK. The shirt should not be longer than the bottom of the shorts. -Plain mesh shorts, Navy or black. At least 4" inseam. Shorts should not go past bottom of the knee. No graphics, writing, or large branding. Small brands are OK.	Multiple vendors
Accessories	Backpack, lunchbox, etc.	Simple designs. No neon colors, words, or graphic images. Small brand logos are OK	Multiple vendors



Acceptable shoes for the ladies.

Uniform Standards for the Gentlemen

Gentlemen should likewise aim for a **simplicity** that is appropriate for these years. Uniforms should always be clean and shirts always tucked in. Additionally:

- Only **solid white** tee shirts may be worn under the white oxford. No wording or pictures on the tee shirt should be visible.
- Simple chains and medals should be tucked under the shirt. No visible piercings or tattoos are allowed.
- One bracelet and one watch may be worn. (No smart watches allowed, including Fitbits).
- Gentlemen’s hair should be neatly groomed and clean at all times, with no highlights or dyeing. Hair must be trimmed above the eyebrows, ears, and collar. No extreme or novelty haircuts; e.g., designs shaved into the hair, mullets, etc.
- All young men should be clean-shaven with sideburns not extending beyond the middle of the ear. Facial hair is not permitted.
- No lapel pins.
- Gentlemen may not wear cologne.
- No head gear may be worn inside the building (winter hats, baseball caps, etc.).

ITEM	COLOR	DESCRIPTION	SCHOOLBELLES STYLE #
Blazer	Navy w/logo	Required for some events and from October 15 – May 1. Do not leave overnight on campus.	#5825
V-Neck Sweater/Vest	Navy with Logo	The sweater is a finishing item, like the blazer. Vest is required at some school events and from October 15 – May 1. Long sleeve optional.	#1993 Long sleeve pullover #1994 Vest
Oxford Shirt	White w/logo	Long sleeve required October 15 – May 1. Collar buttons must be buttoned at all times.	#5760 – Short Sleeve #5761 – Long Sleeve
Socks	Solid charcoal	May be purchased from any vendor as long as they are solid charcoal dress socks that match the pant color and are at least calf-length.	Purchase from any vendor
Leather	Solid Black	Must be a dress shoe and able to take a shine. Must be solid black, including soles.	N/A

Dress Shoes			
Leather Belt	Solid Black	Non-woven, leather belt with simple buckle. Can be purchased from Schoolbelles or another vendor.	#6307 – 1.25" Smooth Leather
Striped Tie	Blue and Gold	9 th -10 th grade tie	#2905 - Color: Chesterton Academy of Our Lady of Hope Stripe – Navy/Gold
Pants	Grey		#5202
Choir Attire	White and black	Black dress pants and Suit Coat Solid black bow tie White dress shirt (not Oxford) Solid black dress socks to mid-calf Black dress shoes – polished and in good condition	
PE Attire -		Plain, loose-fitting gray T-shirt. It should not have any large graphics or branding. Small brands are OK. The shirt should not be longer than the bottom of the shorts. -Plain mesh shorts, Navy or black. At least 4" inseam. Shorts should not go past bottom of the knee. No graphics, writing, or large branding. Small brands are OK.	Multiple vendors
Accessories	Backpack, lunchbox, etc.	Simple designs. No neon colors, words, or graphic images. Small brand logos are OK.	Multiple vendors



Acceptable shoes for the gentlemen.