



## Academy Dress Code

Great Hearts Lakeside 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 a particular religious custom 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 GHLS Office Staff, at [info@greatheartslakeside.org](mailto:info@greatheartslakeside.org) for more information.

**Purchasing Note:** Some components of the uniform must be purchased from [Dennis Uniforms](#) or [Flynn O'Hara](#) whereas other items can be purchased from other vendors. Please see the note under each item.

## 6<sup>th</sup>—8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Uniform

### Required:

- Short or long- sleeve polo shirt  
Color: White or navy  
Vendor: [Dennis Uniforms](#) or [Flynn O'Hara Uniforms](#)
- Pants or shorts  
Color: Khaki  
Vendor: Any (style and fabric must be comparable to Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara)
- Belt, leather or leather-like  
Color: Solid black or solid brown  
Vendor: Any
- Socks  
Color: Solid black, white, or navy  
Vendor: Any

### Optional:

- V-neck pullover or vest

Color: Navy with white varsity stripe

Vendor: [Dennis Uniform](#)

- Quarter-zip sweatshirt with logo

Color: Navy

Vendor: [Dennis Uniform](#) or [Flynn O'Hara Uniforms](#)

- Full-zip fleece with logo

Color: Navy

Vendor: [Dennis Uniform](#) or [Flynn O'Hara Uniforms](#)

## 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.

## 6<sup>th</sup>—8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Uniform

### Required:

#### Option 1:

- Short or long sleeve polo with logo  
Color: White or navy  
Vendor: [Dennis Uniform](#) or [Flynn O'Hara](#)
- Uniform pants or shorts  
Color: Khaki  
Vendor: Any (style and fabric must be comparable to Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara)
- Solid black or brown leather or leather-like belt, not woven  
Vendor: Any
- Socks  
Color: Solid black, white, or navy  
Vendor: Any

#### Option 2:

- Short or long-sleeved polo  
Color: White or navy  
Vendor: [Dennis Uniform](#) or [Flynn O'Hara](#)
- Pleated skirt  
Color: Great Hearts plaid  
Vendor: [Dennis Uniform](#) or [Flynn O'Hara](#)
- Modesty shorts  
Color: Black or navy  
Vendor: Any
- Socks  
Color: Solid black, white, or navy  
Vendor: Any

## Optional:

- V-neck pullover or vest  
Color: Navy with white varsity stripe  
Vendor: [Dennis Uniform](#)
- Quarter-zip sweatshirt with logo  
Color: Navy  
Vendor: [Dennis Uniform](#) or [Flynn O'Hara Uniforms](#)
- Full-zip fleece with logo  
Color: Navy  
Vendor: [Dennis Uniform](#) or [Flynn O'Hara Uniforms](#)

## 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.

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.

**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 (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.

**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**

**Footwear:** 6-8 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) 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.

**Hair:** Should be neatly combed or styled. Neat bows, barrettes, headbands, and “scrunchies” are permissible for girls. Hair should not be arranged or colored 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.

### **Concert Attire for Winter and Spring Performances**

Concerts are a significant moment in the life of the Academy when the community comes together in a corporate celebration of music. Performers are part of a choir or musical ensemble, and their membership is signified by the uniform they wear for this special event.

**Boys:** Black dress slacks, black leather (or synthetic leather) belt, white long-sleeved Oxford style shirt, solid-color tie of any color, black socks, black dress shoes.

**Girls:** Black bottoms, white tops, black dress shoes or dress sandals (no flip-flops, high heels, or boots). Dresses and skirts must be full (circle or a-line; not pencil or straight); hems may be no higher than the top of the knee. Tops must have sleeves; sleeveless tops must be covered by a white sweater. Slight heels are acceptable. Girls may choose (but are not required) to wear black or nude tights.

Example 1	Black skirt (knee length or longer) with a white blouse or sweater	Example 3	Dress that is white on top and black on bottom
Example 2	Black dress slacks with a white blouse or sweater	Example 4	All-black dress with white sweater.

## **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 GHLS and sports team logos (e.g., Lions, Mavericks), provided they do not detract from the Academy culture.

## **Semi-Formal Events**

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 midribs 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.