



## Lower School Uniform and Dress Code

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Great Hearts Western Hills 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 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 Headmaster, whose judgment 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 Headmaster, Assistant Headmaster or Dean before the second week of school.

**Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus (including the parking lot) during a school day or when visiting another school's campus. 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. If you would like to request financial assistance, please contact the Director of Campus Operations, Jennifer Cape, at [Jennifer.cape@greatheartswesternhills.org](mailto:Jennifer.cape@greatheartswesternhills.org) for more information.

**Purchasing Note:** Some components of the uniform must be purchased from Dennis Uniforms ([www.dennisuniform.com](http://www.dennisuniform.com)) or Flynn O’Hara ([www.flynnohara.com](http://www.flynnohara.com)), whereas other items can be purchased from JCPenney, Old Navy or other vendors. Please see the note under each item.

## Boys Uniform Information

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### **K-5 Boys Uniform Required:**

- Short sleeve polo or long sleeve polo  
Color: white or light blue  
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O’Hara
- Navy blue pants or shorts  
Vendor: Dennis, Flynn O’Hara, Old Navy, Land’s End or similar vendor
- Navy blue sweater – button up or pullover  
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O’Hara
- Navy blue quarter zip sweatshirt with Logo  
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O’Hara

**Pants:** All dress slacks must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. The slacks must have belt loops and a solid, dark 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, oversized pants, super-baggy pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted.

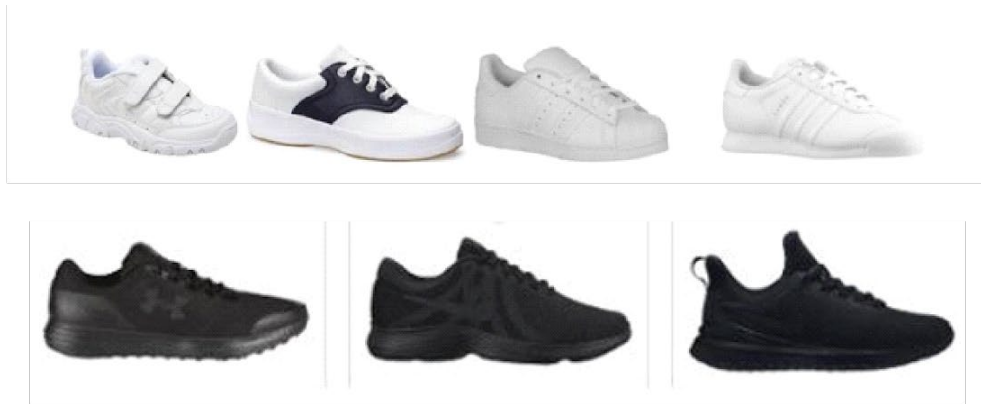
**Shorts:** Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below and should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Shorts should be worn at the waist (and no boxers or undergarments may be visible – including at sports practices and games). **No jean shorts (including khaki-colored denim) or shorts with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean like characteristics are permitted. No Dickies, cargo shorts, oversized shorts, super-baggy shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted.** The shorts must have belt loops and be worn with a dark belt. (Kindergarten is exempt from wearing a belt for toileting purposes.)



## Footwear K-5 Boys

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Students may wear either Keds School Days shoes (white and navy blue) or any all-white or all black athletic shoe. Please, if possible, avoid the K-Swiss all white shoe because it is very difficult to keep them tied and are not suitable for PE/athletics. Students must wear **solid** white, navy, or black socks that are free of logos. Socks must be visible. No-show socks are not permitted.



## K-5 Grooming for Boys

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**Boy's Hair** should be clean and 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. The hair is to be neatly combed before the beginning of each school day. No jewelry except a simple analog or digital watch (**no smart watches or Fitbits**) may be worn. Any watch that is Bluetooth capable and/or connects to WIFI or internet is considered a smart watch. No artificial coloring of the hair, extreme spiking of the hair or mohawks (including combed down or over and some facsimile of a mohawk). Hair gel that helps the hair stay in place or controls curly hair is allowable. Any item considered a distraction by the teacher may be confiscated and arrangements will be made with the parent to send the item home. student may be subject to an infraction, detention, and possible removal from the classroom if he is not in compliance with the school dress code.

**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.

**General Grooming:** As boys’ bodies begin to mature, it is important that they pay attention to their own personal grooming which includes the use of deodorant, showering regularly, and washing their hair.



## Girls Uniform Information



### **K-5 Girls Uniform Required:**

- Short sleeve polo or long sleeve polo  
Color: white or light blue  
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara
- Navy blue pants or shorts  
Vendor: Dennis, Flynn O'Hara, Old Navy, Land's End or similar vendor
- Navy blue sweater – button up or pullover  
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara
- Navy blue quarter zip sweatshirt with Logo  
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara



### **K-2 ONLY Option:**

- Plaid jumper  
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara
- Peter pan collared short-sleeve or long sleeve blouse.  
Color: White  
Vendor: Dennis Uniforms or Flynn O'Hara

\*Jumper must be worn with the peter pan blouse, not a polo shirt

**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 least two inches between skirt's hem and the floor. Skirts must be worn at the waist. **5<sup>th</sup> grade girls choosing to wear the upper school skirt must still wear modesty shorts underneath.** Leggings are not allowed under skirts.



**Pants:** Girls **dress slacks** must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. The slacks 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, oversized pants, super-baggy pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Slacks should be worn at the waist and no undergarments may be visible, including at sports practices and games. No skinny pants.

**Shorts:** Shorts must be worn with a dark, solid belt at least 3/4" wide. Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below and should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Shorts should be worn at the waist (and no boxers or undergarments may be visible – including at sports practices and games). **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, oversized shorts, super-baggy shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted.

## Footwear K-5 Girls

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**Footwear:** Students may wear either Keds School Days shoes (white and navy blue) or any all-white or all black athletic shoe. Please, if possible, avoid the K-Swiss all white shoe because it is very difficult to keep them tied and are not suitable for PE/athletics. Students must wear **solid** white, black, or navy socks that are free of logos. Socks must be visible. No-show socks are not permitted.



**Girls:** Tights/knitted stockings or knee socks must be solid white or solid navy, free of logos and designs. No ankle-high/no-show socks are permitted with long pants. White and ankle-high socks and fold over socks (including the ruffle ones sold at Dennis) may be worn with shorts. Leggings are not allowed even under uniform skirt.



## **K-5 Grooming for Girls**

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**Girls' Hair:** Hair should be clean and neatly combed or styled. Neat small bows, barrettes, headbands, and hair ties are permissible so long as they coordinate with the uniform colors and are worn to secure hair (e.g. not worn as jewelry). Acceptable colors are white, light or navy blue, black, shades of brown and matching plaid. 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.

**K-5 girls:** Fingernails should be kept clean, neat and trimmed and may be painted with clear or light pink polish.

**Jewelry:** Simple stud-styled earrings may be worn (no dangling or hoop earrings). If a student wears a necklace, it must be tucked into the shirt and not visible. No other jewelry except a simple analog or digital watch (no smart watches or Fitbits) may be worn. Any watch that is Bluetooth capable and connects to the WIFI or internet is considered a smart watch. Any item that is considered a distraction by the teacher may be confiscated and arrangements may be made with the parent to have the item sent home. The student may be subject to an infraction, detention, and possible removal from the classroom if she is not in compliance with the school dress code.

**General Grooming:** As girls' bodies begin to mature it is important that they pay attention to their own personal grooming which includes the use of deodorant, showering regularly, washing their hair, and wearing appropriate undergarments.

## **Additional Guidelines for all K-8 Students**

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A simple analog or digital watch (no smart watches or Fitbits) may be worn. Any watch that is Bluetooth capable and/or connects to WIFI or internet is considered a smart watch.

No other piercings, body art, or temporary tattoos should be worn to school. Radical hair color changes during the school year are not permitted. Non-compliance to the school dress code may result in an infraction, detention, and possible removal from the classroom. Any item considered a distraction by the teacher may be confiscated and arrangements will be made with the parent to send the item home.

**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., Griffins, Diamondbacks) and small brand name logos (e.g. the Ralph Lauren "polo") are acceptable, provided they are tasteful and do not make inappropriate allusions. All jackets and sweatshirts must be solid colored and may have no patterns or distracting/oversized logos of any kind.

Jackets and sweatshirts must remain in the lockers, cubbies, or desks for the remainder of the school day. Great Hearts Western Hills uniform sweaters (from Dennis Uniforms/Flynn O'Hara) may be worn throughout the school day all year long. The only outerwear allowable to be worn in the school building are the official school sweater or pullover with the Great Hearts logo.



**Additional Guidelines:**

- Hats and sunglasses may only be worn on campus at recess and must be stored in their cubby, backpack, or locker during the school day. They 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.

**House Patches:** House patches must be worn centered on the left sleeve just above the cuff of the sleeve every day of school – it is considered part of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade uniform. It should be securely fastened with a simple slipstitch, ironed on, or attached with velcro. 5 initial house patches will be distributed free of charge during the house “Choosing Day,” and additional patches may be purchased through the school.

## **Dress Code for Athletics and Intramural Practices and Field Days**

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All shirts worn for athletic practices and field day 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 sleeves, etc.). Pants 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.

Jackets and sweatshirts may be worn to school for warmth but must be free of logos and messages, with the following exceptions: sports team logos (e.g., Lions, Spurs) and apparel brand name logos (e.g. the Ralph Lauren “polo”) are acceptable, provided they are tasteful and do not make inappropriate allusions.

Footwear should be athletic in nature: no sandals, open-toed, or platform shoes. Hats and sunscreen may be appropriate if the students will be in the sun. Hat styles should follow the same guidelines as above.



## Concert Attire Requirements for K-5

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### Boys

- Black dress pants
- White dress shirt
- Black necktie
- Black dress socks
- Black dress shoes
- Hair needs to be combed and out of the eyes
- Black belts are optional, no suspenders



### Girls

- Black modest-length skirt with white blouse or black modest-length dress with a white cardigan (No spaghetti-straps)
- Girls may choose but not required to wear black or nude tights
- Black dress shoes or black dress sandals (no flip-flops)
- Hair should be neat and not distracting to the scholar nor the audience. No distracting hair accessories (no "cheer" size bows). If using one, bows or hairbands should be solid white or solid black



\*If you are in doubt on an item, please check with your child's teacher or an administrator.