



High School Uniform and Dress Code

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.



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.

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.

Purchasing Note: Some components of the uniform must be purchased from Flynn O'Hara (www.flynnohara.com), whereas other items can be purchased from JCPenney, Old Navy or other vendors. Please see the note under each item.

9th - 12th grade Boys Uniforms

Required:

- **White Oxford Shirt:** Long sleeve or short sleeve
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
- **House Tie** – purchased at the GHWH Swag Shoppe
- **Khaki Pants or shorts**
Vendor: any
- **P.E. Uniform Shorts/T-shirt (9th gr ONLY)**
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
 - Optional for PE: Crewneck sweatshirt w/GH Logo & Navy Sweatpants w/GH Logo
- **Belt:** black or brown



Optional:

- V-neck Sweater Vest (Highly encouraged - it helps protect the tie from stains & looks sharp!)
- Navy-blue Sweater w/ GH Logo (Vendor: Flynn O'Hara)
- Quarter Zip-Fleece Pullover w/GH Logo (Vendor: Flynn O'Hara)

Junior & Senior Blazer: It is a Great Hearts tradition to further distinguish our juniors and seniors by adding the academy blazer to their uniform. Students will be fitted for their blazers in the spring before their Junior year. The blazer will be required for specific events throughout their Junior and Senior year, however they are welcome to wear it daily as an optional part of their uniform.

House T-shirts: Students may (and are encouraged) to wear their **house shirt** every Friday. They may be purchased through the GHWH Spirit store or House Swag Shoppe.

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, oversized pants, super-baggy pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Pants should not have visible reinforced knee patches.



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). 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, oversized shorts, super-baggy shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted.

Boys are highly encouraged to wear a white undershirt under their uniform shirt, but it is not required. ***Shirts worn under their oxford shirts must be white.***

Accessories: Boys may wear a single chain/necklace that is not visible above the collar and one simple and tasteful bracelet without pop culture logos. Boys may wear one simple and tasteful ring. Piercings are not permitted. 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 and may not be worn. No piercings, body art, nail polish or temporary/permanent tattoos should be worn to school.

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., Spartans) 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 that are not part of the uniform or spirit wear must remain in the lockers while students are in the school buildings. Great Hearts Western Hills uniform sweaters (Flynn O’Hara) may be worn throughout the school day all year long. House swag may be worn as long as it is not a distraction; the beanies may not be worn in the building.



Footwear Boys

6-10th grade boys' shoes must be **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). When wearing pants, socks must be white, black, navy, or brown, solid-colored, and free of logos or patterns. When wearing shorts, white socks are allowed but must be free of logos or patterns. No-show socks are not permitted.

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. **Shoes that may not be worn**: boat shoes, suede shoes, high-top shoes, boots of any kind, tennis shoes, canvas shoes, black athletic shoes, crocs, etc.



Shoes for PE: Students should wear a cross trainer or running shoe that is plain and as minimal as possible in style with rubber soles. They do not have to be solid black or solid white but should be as uniform in color as possible. High tops, Chuck Taylors, skate shoes such as Vans, DC's, etc are not permitted. Students should be able to comfortably wear their shoes while running and performing various exercises and should be prepared to wear their shoes outside.

Grooming for Boys

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 artificial coloring of the hair, extreme spiking or extreme shaving (except clean military-styled cuts) of the hair or mohawks (including combed down or over and some facsimile of a mohawk). **Razor cuts that feature a pattern or logo on the sides or back of the neck are NOT permitted.** Hair gel that helps the hair stay in place or controls curly hair is allowable.. The 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. Boys should refrain from shaving off all or portions of their eyebrows. Radical hair color changes during the school year are not permitted. Student's hair color must be a **natural color** and remain the same throughout the school year.

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.



9th-12th High School Girls Uniforms

Required:

- **White Oxford Shirt:** Long sleeve or short sleeve
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
- **House Tie** – provided by the school at the house choosing ceremony
- **Navy-blue and Khaki Plaid Skirt with modesty shorts**
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
- **Belt:** if pants or shorts are worn
- **P.E. Uniform (9th only) Shorts/T-shirts**
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
 - Optional: **only for PE** - Crewneck sweatshirt w/GH Logo & Navy Sweatpants w/GH Logo



Optional:

- Khaki Shorts or pants (see specifications on next page)
Vendor: any
- V-neck Sweater Vest (highly recommended – looks sharp and protects the tie from stains)
- Navy-blue Sweater w/GH Logo
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
- Quarter Zip-Fleece Pullover w/GH Logo
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara

Blouses: We want our young ladies to move freely and comfortably throughout the school day. Oxford blouses must stay tucked in with the student's choice of skirt, pants, and/or shorts during natural movement throughout the school day (i.e. raising one's hand). Tailored-cut blouses may be untucked but must extend past the waistband of the uniform bottoms enough so that normal movement (i.e. hand-raising) does not reveal skin. When purchasing blouses, consider that, if they are too tight-fitting, they tend to gap in the front, which reveals undergarments and leads to undue embarrassment. If this happens, a student should wear a camisole under the blouse until she is able to purchase a new blouse.

Junior & Senior Blazer: It is a Great Hearts tradition to further distinguish our juniors and seniors by adding the academy blazer to their uniform. Students will be fitted for their blazers in the spring before their junior year. The blazer will be required for specific events throughout their Junior and Senior year. However, they are welcome to wear it daily as an optional part of their uniform.

Skirts: The skirt hem may be no higher than just above the knee, both in front and in back. To measure a correct skirt 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. Please be sure that you purchase the JUNIOR skirt to guarantee best fit. If a skirt becomes too short during the school year, the student will be asked to purchase a new one at the correct length or choose to wear pants or shorts. It is suggested that girls wear privacy shorts under their skirts.



Pants: Girls may wear traditional full-length straight leg or boot cut khaki pants. ***“Skinny” pants which are form-fitting down the leg and at the ankle are not allowed.*** The pants must have belt loops and be worn with a solid, dark belt at least 3/4" wide. Material should be less than 5% stretchable and move freely when worn. Pants should fit properly, meaning that they are not unnecessarily baggy, form-fitting, or excessively tight. Girls’ pants must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. No jeans (including khaki-colored denim) or pants with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean-like characteristics are permitted. No 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 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 cargo shorts, super-baggy shorts, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted.

House shirts: Students may (and are encouraged) to wear their house shirt every Friday. They may be purchased through the GHWH Spirit store or House Swag Shoppe.

Grooming for Girls

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). The hair is to be neatly combed before the beginning of each school day. No artificial coloring of the hair, spiking or extreme shaving. Radical hair color changes during the school year are not permitted. Student’s hair color must be a **natural color** and remain the same throughout the school year.

Makeup: Girls may wear subtle makeup only if it is applied tastefully and in moderation. Heavily lined eyes, fake eyelashes, 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, classic red, and white which extends to artificial nails and gel polish. Tasteful French manicures are acceptable. No shades of blue, green, yellow, purple, orange, gray, brown or black are permissible, nor are glittered, speckled, or patterned nail polish.

Jewelry: Girls may wear one pair of short earrings only on the ear lobes. “Short” means that the earrings should not hang more than 1/2 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 (no nose rings). 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. 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 and is not permitted. ***Any item considered a distraction by the teacher may be confiscated and arrangements will be made with the parent to send the item home.***



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, including privacy shorts if they choose to wear the skirt.

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.

Footwear Girls

Footwear: 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). Non-athletic saddle shoes that are white and black/blue are also permitted. 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, white, black or navy in color; socks must be a solid navy, white, or black in color. When wearing a skirt, knee socks or tights are recommended. No-show socks 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. Penny-loafers and non-athletic saddle shoes that are white and black/blue are also permitted:



The following styles are **examples of shoes that are not permitted**: semi-casual shoes, lower school Ked's saddle 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**:





Shoes for PE: Students should wear a cross trainer or running shoe that is plain and as minimal as possible in style with rubber soles. They do not have to be solid black or solid white but should be as uniform in color as possible. High tops, Chuck Taylors, skate shoes such as Vans, DC's, etc are not permitted. Students should be able to comfortably wear their shoes while running and performing various exercises and should be prepared to wear their shoes outside.

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 that are not part of the uniform or spirit wear must remain in the lockers while students are in the school buildings.*** The only outerwear that may be worn in the school buildings include the official school sweater or pullover with the Great Hearts logo and any GHWH sanctioned spirit outerwear. House swag may be worn as long as it is not a distraction; the beanies may not be worn in the building.

Footwear Medical Exemptions for boys and girls: We recognize that a small number of our scholars have unique medical needs that make wearing dress shoes for the length of the school day untenable. For students with written notes from a doctor indicating a medical requirement to wear athletic shoes during the school day, those students ***may wear solid ALL black athletic shoes (no high tops).***

Examples of acceptable ALL black tennis shoes for students with medical exemptions:



Examples of unacceptable tennis shoes:





Dress Code for Athletics and Special Events

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. They should be tasteful, in good repair, and free from any reference inappropriate for school (i.e. pop culture).

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.

Events Dress Code for Semi-Formal Dances/Promotion/Graduation/Ceremonies

The semi-formal dress code for young men is as follows. Boys should wear dress slacks (NO jeans or patched pocket pants), a dress shirt, tie (or bow tie), dress socks, dress shoes. Artificially colored/Dyed/bleached hair is not permitted. Hair should be trimmed and styled appropriately. No hats, except those that match the period/genre of the dance.

The semi-formal dress code for young ladies is as follows. Girls should wear modest-length skirts or dresses (**which means it should reach the top of the knee**) or dress slacks (no jeans or khakis). Shirts or blouses should be tasteful and appropriate for the occasion. Bare midriffs, tight-fitting outfits, strapless tops, spaghetti-straps, and low-cut shirts are **NOT** allowed. If the dress has spaghetti straps, a dress jacket or sweater must be worn over it. Girls should wear dress shoes. Dress sandals such as open-toed dress shoes may be worn, but flip-flops are not permitted. (Please avoid extremely high heels that the student is not used to walking in.) Artificially colored/Dyed/bleached hair is not permitted. No hats.

School Concert Dress Code

Boys: Black or dark dress pants. White dress shirt. Dark necktie. Dress shoes.

Girls: Black or dark, modest-length dress, skirt, or dress pants with a white blouse/top. Dress shoes or dress sandals.