

## 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.***

**The student may be subject to an infraction, detention, and possible removal from the classroom if he or 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. 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 Flynn O'Hara ([www.flynnohara.com](http://www.flynnohara.com)) or Tommy Hilfiger (<https://www.globalschoolwear.com/school/GHTX10>), whereas other items can be purchased from JCPenney, Old Navy or other vendors. Please see the note under each item.

## **Upper School Boys Uniforms**

### **Middle School (Grades 6-8) Boys Uniform**

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#### **Required:**

- **Short-sleeve Polo Shirt Color: White or Navy blue**  
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara or Tommy Hilfiger
- **Khaki Pants or shorts**  
Vendor: any
- **P.E. Uniform Shorts/T-shirt**  
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara / Swag Shoppe
- **Belt:** black or brown

#### **Optional:**

- Navy-blue Sweater Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
- Quarter Zip-Fleece Pullover  
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara



**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 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade uniform. It should be securely fastened with a simple slip stitch, ironed on, or attached with velcro. **Five initial house patches will be distributed free of charge during the House Induction Ceremony (1<sup>st</sup> day of school) for new students ONLY, and additional patches may be purchased at the front desk.**

**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, holes or major stains.

**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.

**Accessories:** White undershirts may be worn underneath the school uniform shirt 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). Any watch that is Bluetooth capable and/or has the ability to connect to WiFi or internet is considered a smart watch (just disabling the internet or WiFi capability does not make it acceptable for school wear). Boys may wear one simple and tasteful bracelet without logos or sayings. Boys may wear one simple and tasteful ring. Piercings and visible tattoos are not permitted.

### Upper School (Grades 6-12) Footwear Boys

**6-12<sup>th</sup> grade 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). When wearing pants, socks must be black, navy, or brown, solid-colored, and free of logos or patterns. When wearing shorts, white socks are allowed, as long as they are 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 (*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, and Non-Black Soles:



**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.

## **Upper School (Grades 6-12) 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 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. 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.

**Makeup:** Boys should not be wearing any noticeable makeup.

**Jewelry:** Boys are not allowed to wear earrings or any other kind of body piercing. If a boy has piercings and cannot simply take the jewelry out, clear spacers should be used to maintain the piercing. One simple ring 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 and must be worn inside the collar. 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 the internet is considered a smart watch. *Any item considered a distraction by the teacher may be confiscated and arrangements will be made with the parent to send the item home.*

**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.

# Upper School Girls Uniforms

## Middle School (Grades 6-8) Girls Uniform

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### Required:

- **Polo Shirt: White or Navy blue**  
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
- **Navy-blue and Khaki Plaid Skirt with modesty shorts**  
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
- **P.E. Uniform Shorts/T-shirt** Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
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- **Belt:** if pants or shorts are worn

### Optional:

- Khaki Shorts or pants (see specifications on next page)  
Vendor: any
- Navy-blue Sweater  
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara
- Quarter Zip-Fleece Pullover  
Vendor: Flynn O'Hara



**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 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade uniform. It should be securely fastened with a simple slip stitch, ironed on, or attached with velcro. **Five initial house patches will be distributed free of charge for new students during the House Choosing Ceremony (1<sup>st</sup> day of school), and additional patches may be purchased at the front desk.**

**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.

**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; capris are not acceptable. 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 hang 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.

### **Upper School (Grades 6-12) Grooming for Girls**

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**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 color 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, pointy or painted garishly. **Fingernails may only be painted in light pink, classic red, and white.** 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 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. 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 the internet is considered a smart watch. *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.*

### **Upper School (Grades 6-12) Footwear for Girls**

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**6-12<sup>th</sup> grade 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 black, white or navy in color; socks must be a solid navy, white, or black in color. When wearing a skirt, knee socks or tights must be worn. 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. 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, 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.

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### **Additional Guidelines for all 6-12 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 the 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. Student's hair color must be a natural color and remain the same throughout the school year.

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. A student out of dress code may be sent home to change or appropriate items brought to school to bring them

into compliance. **Any student who is not in compliance with the dress code in any way will not be allowed to enter their classroom until they are brought back into compliance.** Though the campus endeavours to help scholars become in compliance with the dress code, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student and their family to resolve the issue regardless of the reason why the scholar is out of compliance.

**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, 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 includes 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:** We recognize that a small number of our scholars have unique medical needs that make wearing standard dress shoes for the length of the school day untenable. For students with written notes from a doctor indicating a medical requirement to wear comfortable shoes (and may even suggest tennis shoes) during the school day, those students ***may wear orthopedic dress shoes - NO athletic shoes.*** Some podiatrist-recommended brands that provide acceptable options include Dr. Scholl’s, Clark’s, Ecco, Cole Haan, Rockport, Naturalizer, and for some students Doctor Martens (but not universally).

### **House Shirt Fridays:**

Students may (and are encouraged) to wear their house shirts every Friday. Otherwise, students must wear their regular uniform. Shirts for other school-related activities and events (Spartan Spirit, athletics, drama, Fiesta, etc.) may only be worn on **clearly-specified Spirit Days** (last Friday of the month).

### **Spirit Days:**

There will be designated days throughout the year on which students may wear a school spirit shirt with their regular pants, skirt, or shorts. Any shirt from a GHWH school-sponsored sport, club, or event is considered an official spirit shirt and may be worn on designated spirit shirt days.

### **Additional Guidelines:**

- Hats and sunglasses may only be worn on campus at recess and must be stored in their 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.

### **Student IDs & Lanyards**

All students are given a Student ID the first week of school. Students are expected to have their Student ID visible at all times during school hours. Students are allowed to use a House Lanyard that can be purchased at the Swag Shoppe or use their own lanyard that is free of pop culture. ID cases can be of the student's choosing, however the picture and barcode on the ID must be visible at all times.

**Lanyards and ID cards/ ID card pouches should be free of pins, stickers, and any attachments or accessories (except for a cell phone locker key).**

### **Dress Code for Athletics:**

For athletic practices and field day, students must wear their PE uniform shorts with any Great Hearts Western Hills or House t-shirt.

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.

### **School Concert Dress Code:**

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

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

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

There are specific, semi-formal dress requirements for special events including high school dances, 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. Boys should wear dress slacks (no jeans or patched pocket pants), a dress shirt, tie, dress socks, dress shoes. Dyed/bleached hair is not permitted. Hair should be trimmed and styled appropriately.

The semi-formal dress code for young ladies is as follows. Girls **MUST** wear modest-length skirts or dresses (no shorter than the uniform skirt measurement) or dress pants. Shirts or blouses should be tasteful and appropriate for the occasion. Bare midriffs, tight-fitting outfits, strapless tops, spaghetti-straps, and low-cut shirts or dresses are not allowed. If the dress has spaghetti straps, a dress jacket, shawl or sweater must be worn over it. Girls should wear dress shoes. Dress sandals (open-toed dress shoes) may be worn, but flip-flops are not permitted. Dyed/bleached hair is not permitted.

Please note, the My Antonia Western Dance is considered a semi-formal event and attire should follow the above guidelines. However, jeans, hats, boots, and other types of western wear are encouraged for the occasion.

Students not wearing appropriate formal attire to a dance or extracurricular event will be given the option to wear a school-offered loaner item or have a parent bring them a change of clothing. If a student is unsure if an outfit will be acceptable, they are welcome to email a picture of the item(s) to the Assistant Headmasters Mrs. Glowe or Mr. Womack.