

## **DRESS CODE (K-8) [Preschoolers do not wear uniforms]**

School uniforms are important for a number of reasons. As part of the Catholic school tradition, uniforms help to create a Catholic identity. They show pride in our school and in the care that we take of our bodies. Uniforms, which distinguish school clothes from play clothes, instill self-discipline and have been connected to better academic and behavioral performance. They help to eliminate the pressure of wearing specific brands or fashions, and can lead young people to realize that their value and worth comes from being children of God, rather than from what they wear or look like. Uniforms further provide parents the advantage of lower cost for school clothing and eliminate daily battles and struggles over what clothes children will wear to school, especially in a time when fashions have become increasingly more immodest. Saint Joseph School students in kindergarten through eighth grade are expected to adhere to the dress code as outlined below. School staff will partner with you to help your children follow the uniform policy.

The administration does reserve the right to make discretionary judgments regarding appropriateness of student dress/fashion not explicitly covered by this dress code.

### **Girls Uniform:**

- Plaid jumper (K-5) or skirt (6-8)
- Length must be no shorter than one inch from the floor when kneeling.
- Skirts are to be worn at the waist and are not to be rolled to shorten length.
- Shorts are to be worn under the uniform.

### **Boys and Girls Pants:**

- Navy blue twill straight leg pant (no flare legs, no low rise, no slits in hem, no extra pockets, no fancy stitching)
- Optional - Khaki straight leg pant (grades 6-8 only)
- Pants are not to be baggy, saggy or tight.

### **Shorts:**

- Navy uniform walking shorts
- Khaki uniform walking shorts only for grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
- May be worn August through October 31, April 1 through May
- No lower than knee length, no shorter than 3 inches above the knee
- Shorts should be neither tight-fitting nor baggy and must be worn at the waist.

### **Belts (optional):**

- Belts, if worn, are to be solid black, blue or brown (no decorations).

### **Shirts:**

- White, light blue, dark blue, maroon/wine
- Polo or oxford (long or short sleeves)
- Banded polo shirts purchased through Dennis Uniform in white or navy
- White turtleneck
- Girls - blouse (plain white, no lace or ruffles)
- The only approved logo is the school logo on shirts, sweaters, etc. purchased through Dennis Uniform.
- Not too oversized or skin tight
- Shirts need to be buttoned (except for the collar button)
- Anything worn under the uniform shirt must be solid white; no words, colors, pictures, logos or print.
- Shirts and blouses are to be tucked in at all times, so that belt loops or waistbands can be seen. Banded polos should be worn with the band at the waist and not pulled down. Excess fabric should be neatly folded over the waist.

### **Sweaters/Sweatshirts:**

- Solid navy blue or white pullover, cardigan or vest sweater
- Plain navy or white sweatshirt
- Dark green, maroon, navy, white or gray Saint Joseph School sweatshirt

- Uniform shirts must be worn under sweaters and sweatshirts.
- No hoods or zippers
- The Saint Joseph School quarter-zip purchased through Dennis Uniform is acceptable.
- Any other jackets or sweatshirts may be worn to and from school and at recess only.

#### **Shoes and Socks/Stockings/Leggings:**

- Suitable shoes (dress, tennis, loafer, sports, "indoor" boots) or closed-toe sandals are to be worn. All shoes and sandals must have a back or strap around the back of the foot. Heels and crocs are not allowed for safety reasons. Also, no light-up shoes due to distraction.
- Solid black, navy blue, or white socks or tights must be worn with shoes or sandals all year long; only small logos (no stripes) when worn with shorts, jumpers, or skirts.
- Girls may also wear black or navy blue leggings under the uniform skirt/jumper in cold weather (school pants, capris, and dance pants are not allowed under the uniform skirt/jumper). Leggings are tight-fitting, ankle length (no capri length) leg coverings (basically, stockings without feet). Leg coverings that are loose fitting, fall below the ankle, and/or flare at the bottom are considered pants, not leggings.

#### **Gym Uniform:**

- **ALL GRADES:** Shoes appropriate for a gym floor (tennis shoes, running shoes, etc.). Students also typically wear their school uniforms for PE classes. Jr. High students (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) may choose to change into gym clothes (basketball shorts or uniform shorts with appropriate t-shirt).

#### **Hair:**

- Hair must be well groomed and its natural color. Extremes in hair styles/colors are unacceptable.
- Wigs, hair pieces and hair extensions are not allowed (exceptions for illness such as cancer).
- Boys' hair should be relatively short (long hair styles are not permitted). Hair should not touch the eyebrows in the front or the collar in the back. Sideburns and hair covering the ear should be no longer than halfway down the ear on the sides. Boys must be clean shaven (no facial hair).
- **Girls' hair should be kept out of the eyes.** Girls may wear simple hair accessories. These should not be worn on the wrist when not in use.
- Hats, bandanas, head scarves, head bands with tails and terry cloth sweatbands are not permitted.

#### **Makeup/Jewelry/Accessories:**

- Makeup is not allowed for all grades K-8. Slightly tinted acne medication is permitted, as needed.
- Nail polish is not permitted for grades K-6. Junior high girls may wear clear or pale pink nail polish only [no artificial nails of any kind].
- Jewelry permitted: simple wristwatch and simple religious items (medals, pins, necklaces, one religious bracelet) in moderation.
- Girls may wear small earrings, one on each earlobe. For safety reasons, they may not wear hoops, dangles or earrings that hang below the earlobe. Boys may not wear earrings.
- One ring may be worn in junior high.
- Fake glasses are not permitted.

#### **Other Points:**

- Uniforms should be neat, clean and mended (when necessary). Clothing with holes should be replaced. It would be best to have at least two uniforms in order that the child may always comply with the uniform regulations.
- All clothing should be marked with the child's name.
- Students may not wear tattoos or draw on their skin.
- Scout, Brownie, American Heritage, etc. uniforms may only be worn with school uniforms on troop meeting days. School-sponsored clubs (Student Council and Melodic Knights) may also wear club t-shirts on meeting days.

**No Uniform Days:** On occasion, (generally on early dismissal days for faculty meetings), students will be allowed to have a no uniform day. Other no uniform days may be announced by the administration. Students must follow the guidelines below for no uniform days:

Pants: Dress pants, khakis, capris (mid-calf length), overalls, loose knit slacks, colored jeans, blue jeans or loose-fitting athletic/sweat pants may be worn. Pants not permitted include:

- Pajama bottoms, baggy or saggy pants;
- Pants, jeans, or capris that are frayed, faded, multi-bleached, stone washed, or that have holes;
- Stretch pants, stirrup pants, leggings/jeggings, skinny jeans, and all pants that are skin tight.

Skirts/Dresses: Skirts/split skirts and dresses may be worn and are to reach just above the knee or lower. Tops of dresses must follow the guidelines for blouses below.

Shirts/Blouses - Shirts must be modest - long enough to sufficiently cover the midriff and no low-cut necklines. Shirts may not be tied up at the waistline. Tank tops, sleeveless tops, or low-cut necklines are not allowed. Shirts must be neat and clean. Clothing that is offensive, immoral, or otherwise inappropriate in a Catholic school environment is not acceptable. Tight-fitting/compression-fitting shirts are not allowed for boys or girls.

Shorts: Only school uniform shorts may be worn in September, October, April and May.

Shoes and Socks: Shoes and sandals without a strap around the back of the foot may be worn. Socks (or tights or hose) must be worn. For safety reasons, heels (spike, stiletto, block, tapered, blade, wedge, etc.) higher than 2 inches are not allowed.

Jewelry and makeup: uniform regulations remain in effect.

### **Cold Weather**

Please have your child/ren dressed appropriately (cap/ear band, mittens/gloves, boots) on cold days as they do go outside for recess unless the temperature/wind chill is below zero. When the weather gets especially cold, we have allowed girls to wear black or blue sweats/wind pants to recess. These and any other pants girls may wear to and from school may not be worn in the school building.

### **Dress Code Concerns**

If students are out of dress code in some way, they may receive a simple reminder to help them. Depending on the issue, parents may be contacted to see what can be done to remedy the situation and help the child to be in proper uniform. If needed, students may be asked to call home for a change of clothing.