

# GreatHearts<sup>®</sup> Online

## UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

Great Hearts Online 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.

The Academy 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. proper shoes, shirts, skirts and pants that fit properly, etc. Parents/guardians are urged to understand the uniform requirements below, and to ensure that their student joins class each day in the right attire, from head to toe. It is an uncomfortable experience for a student 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. 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 student is deemed to be wearing inappropriate attire, the parent/guardian 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 Director of Academy Operations before purchasing.

Decisions about the appropriateness of apparel may be referred to the Headmaster, whose judgment will be final. The Academy will make specific exceptions to the dress code as required by particular religious customs; parents/guardians should address specific concerns to the Headmaster before the second week of school. Students must stay in uniform uppers whenever they are in class (live/synchronous or when recording an asynchronous assignment).

Parents/guardians must provide their student(s) with the required uniform. Financial assistance for uniforms is available in certain circumstances. A request for school assistance for purchasing uniforms must be made in writing to the Headmaster. Please contact the Director of Academy Operations for more information.

**Required:**

- Short sleeve polo or long sleeve polo with Great Hearts logo; white or light blue

**Optional:**

- Girls K-2 only: Plaid jumper & Peter pan collared shirt
- Navy blue sweater – button up or pullover; Navy blue quarter zip sweatshirt with logo

**Vendors**

- Dennis Uniforms - <https://www.dennisuniform.com/>
- Flynn O'Hara - <https://flynnohara.com/>

**Grooming**

Hair should be groomed to be out of the face and allow for clear eye contact with Teachers in zoom classes. No artificial coloring of the hair, extreme spiking of the hair or mohawks (including combed down or over and some facsimile of a mohawk). For girls, hair accessories may only be blue or white and should not be large or overly distracting. Hair gel that helps the hair stay in place or controls curly hair is allowable. Hair styles which reflect a family's particular religious heritage or culture are allowed.

