



**GreatHearts**  
Live Oak

## **Academy Dress Code**

Great Hearts Live Oak 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 dress code 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 dress code violation, and repeated 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 uniform items must be clean, neat, reasonably pressed, and in properly fitting condition. If a child is deemed to be wearing attire that does not meet the standard, the parent will be notified and a change of clothing may be required for attendance that day. If in doubt about an article of clothing, check with a school administrator before purchasing.

Decisions about 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 or special needs (e.g., a medical condition); parents should address specific concerns with the administration before the second week of school, or as soon as possible in the case of an unforeseen situation.

**Students must stay in uniform whenever they are on campus (including the parking lot) during a school day.** 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 economically disadvantaged students as provided in the Texas Education Code. The Academy may provide a uniform voucher for such students. If you would like to request financial assistance, please contact the GHLO Office Staff, at [info@greatheartsliveoak.org](mailto:info@greatheartsliveoak.org) for more information.

**Purchasing Note:** Some components of the uniform must be purchased from Dennis Uniforms (431 Isom Rd., [www.dennisuniform.com](http://www.dennisuniform.com)) or Flynn O'Hara (2108A NW Military Hwy, [www.flynnohara.com](http://www.flynnohara.com)) whereas other items can be purchased from other vendors. Please see the note under each item.

## Boys Uniform Guidelines

### Required:

- Short or long sleeve polo with logo
  - K-6: white or light blue
  - 7-8: white or Navy
  - Vendor: Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara
- Uniform pants or shorts
  - K-4: Navy
  - 5-8: khaki
  - Vendor: Any (style and fabric must be comparable to Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara)
- P.E. shorts/t-shirt (**7-8 ONLY**)
  - Vendor: Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara

### Optional:

- Navy sweater
  - K-6: v-neck pullover or cardigan with logo
  - 7-8: v-neck pullover or vest with logo
  - Vendor: Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara
- Navy quarter-zip sweatshirt with logo
  - K-8
  - Vendor: Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara

**Pants/Shorts** must have belt loops and a solid black, brown, or navy belt (at least 3/4" wide) must be worn. (Kindergarten is exempt from the requirement for belt loops and a belt due to toileting purposes.) No fabric or woven belts are permitted. No jeans, Dickies, cargo pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be

permitted. Pants/Shorts should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Pants/Shorts should be worn at the waist and no undergarments may be visible. Pants must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below.

## Girls Uniform Guidelines

### Required:

- Short or long sleeve polo with logo
  - K-6: white or light blue
  - 7-8: white or Navy
  - Vendor: Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara
- Uniform pants or shorts\*
  - K-4: Navy
  - 5-8: khaki
  - Vendor: Any (style and fabric must be comparable to Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara)
- Skirts, skorts, or jumpers\*
  - K-2: plaid jumper (Peter-Pan collar blouse must be worn with jumper)
  - K-4: plaid skort
  - 5-6: plaid skort or skirt
  - 7-8: plaid skirt
  - Vendor: Any (style and fabric must be comparable to Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara)
- P.E. shorts/t-shirt (**7-8 ONLY**)
  - Vendor: Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara

\* Girls have the option of wearing pants/shorts or a skirt/skort/jumper.

### Optional:

- Navy sweater
  - K-6: v-neck pullover or cardigan with logo
  - 7-8: v-neck pullover or vest with logo
  - Vendor: Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara
- Navy quarter-zip sweatshirt with logo - K-8
  - Vendor: Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara

**Skirts & Jumpers:** The skirt, skort or jumper must be worn at the waist and the hem must touch the top of the knee, and should fall to the same length in both the front and the back. To measure a correct length, properly adjust the skirt at the waist, ask your daughter to move around for a few minutes, see where the skirt has landed after movement, and adjust the skirt hem as needed to meet the length requirement. **Girls choosing to wear the skirt or jumper must wear solid black or navy spandex shorts beneath their skirts.**

**Pants/Shorts** must have belt loops and a solid black, brown, or navy belt (at least 3/4" wide) must be worn. (Kindergarten is exempt from the requirement for belt loops and a belt due to toileting purposes.) No fabric or woven belts are permitted. No jeans, Dickies, cargo pants, oversized pants, super-baggy pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra seams will be permitted. Pants/Shorts should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Pants/Shorts should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Pants/Shorts should be worn at the waist and no undergarments may be visible. Pants must reach to the shoe but should not drag on the ground. Shorts should go to just above the knee but not below.

## **Footwear Guidelines**

**K-6 students** may wear either Keds School Days shoes (white and Navy blue) or any all-white or all-black athletic shoe (no hightops). Shoes may have laces (to be tied at all times) or Velcro closures. Slip-on and Mary Jane style shoes are not acceptable. *Please, if possible, avoid the K-Swiss all-white shoe because it is very difficult to keep laces tied and they do not perform well 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. For girls, tights/knitted stockings, knee socks and fold-over socks (including the ruffle ones sold at Dennis/FlynnO'Hara) are acceptable. Socks must be solid white or Navy and free of logos and designs. Leggings are not acceptable under the uniform skirt.

**7-8 boys footwear** must be solid-colored dark brown or black dress shoes (slip-on or lace-up) with matching soles. 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.

**7-8 girls footwear:** Dress shoes (slip-on or lace-up) which are low-heeled (less than 1.5"), low-soled, or flat and are solid-color dark brown, Navy, or black with matching soles. 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 or Navy in color; socks must be a solid Navy, white, or black in color, and free of logos or patterns. No-show socks are not permitted.

## **Hair, Jewelry, Grooming, and Makeup**

**Hair:** Hair should be neatly combed or styled. Hair must be natural looking in its color (no bleaching or unnatural streaking/highlighting, no artificial jet-black coloring, and no unnatural colors), and simple in its cut. Radical changes in hair color are not permitted during the school year. Girls may wear neat bows, barrettes, headbands, and hair ties so long as they coordinate with the uniform. Boys' hair must be above the top of the shirt collar. Accommodations for religious reasons are permitted.

**Jewelry, K-6:** Girls may wear one pair of small studded earrings on the ear lobes. No loops or dangling earrings are permitted. Boys may not wear earrings. No other body piercings are permitted. Boys and girls are permitted to wear one watch; smart watches (or any WiFi or Bluetooth enabled device—e.g., Fit Bit) are not permitted. Bracelets, rings,

and necklaces are not permitted unless for religious reasons.

**Jewelry, 7-8:** Girls may wear one pair of short earrings only on the ear lobes. Earrings should not hang more than ½ inch below the ear lobe; hoops should not be larger than a nickel. No other body piercings are permitted. One simple ring, one watch, and one small necklace are permissible. Necklaces must be a simple, fine-gauged, 16 to 20 inch silver or gold chain, with or without a pendant. Smart watches are not permitted.

**Grooming:** Hair and nails should be clean and trimmed. Hands and face should be clean. No tattoos, temporary or permanent, are permitted. This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin. Perfume is not permitted; when appropriate, deodorant may be worn.

**Makeup and Nail Polish:** Students in grades K-6 may not wear makeup or colored nail polish. Girls in grades 7-8 may wear subtle makeup applied in moderation and nail polish in shades of muted pink and skin tones. Simple French manicures are acceptable.

## Outerwear

**Inside the academic building.** Official school sweaters as described in the uniform guidelines are the only outerwear allowed to be worn in the school building. The uniform sweaters, vest, and quarter-zip sweatshirt may be worn year-round throughout the school day.

**Outside the academic building.** Jackets and sweatshirts (including spirit jackets/hoodies with the GHLO logo) may be worn during recess and outdoor transitions for warmth, but must be free of logos and messages, with the following exceptions: small sports team logos (e.g., Owls, Spurs) and small brand name logos (e.g. the Ralph Lauren “polo”), provided they do not detract from the Academy culture. All jackets and sweatshirts must be solid-colored and free of eye-catching/oversized logos of any kind. Hats and sunglasses may only be worn at recess. All outerwear, including hats and sunglasses, must remain in the lockers, backpacks, or cubbies when not in use.

## Concert Dress for Winter and Spring Concerts

Concerts are a significant moment in the life of the Academy when the community comes together in a corporate celebration of music. Performers are part of a choir or musical ensemble, and their membership is signified by the uniform they wear for this special event.

**Boys:** Black dress slacks, black leather (or synthetic leather) belt, white long-sleeved Oxford style shirt, solid-color tie of any color, black socks, black dress shoes.

**Girls:** Black bottoms, white tops, black dress shoes or dress sandals (no flip-flops, high heels, or boots). Dresses and skirts must be full (circle or a-line; not pencil or straight); hems may be no higher than the top of the knee. Tops must have sleeves; sleeveless tops must be covered by a white sweater. Slight heels are acceptable. Girls may choose (but are not required) to wear black or nude tights.

Option 1: Black skirt (knee length or longer) with a white blouse or sweater

Option 2: Black dress slacks with a white blouse or sweater

Option 3: Dress that is white on top and black on bottom

Option 4: All-black dress with white sweater.

## **Athletics and Intramurals**

Physical activity and friendly competition is an important part of Academy life. Performance and enjoyment of athletic events is greatly enhanced by functional attire that reflects the Academy's culture.

All shirts worn for athletic practices and field day should be loose-fitting, in good repair (no holes, torn sleeves, etc.), and should be worn either tucked in or well over the waist of the pants/shorts if not tucked in. No midriffs may be visible. Tank tops, camisoles, or sports bras may not be worn as outer garments.

Pants/shorts should be worn at the waist and provide for freedom of movement (neither excessively loose nor tight). Shorts should be no shorter than mid-thigh and no-longer than just below the knee. Pants/shorts should be in good repair (no holes, torn sleeves, etc.); no undergarments may be visible. If a player would like to wear spandex or compression pants or shorts, they must be covered by loose fitting athletic shorts.

Footwear should be athletic in nature: no sandals, open-toed, or platform shoes are permitted.

Approved outerwear, including hats and sunglasses, may be worn according to Academy guidelines (see above). When appropriate, sunscreen may be used.

All athletic attire should be free of logos and messages, with the exception of GHLO and sports team logos (e.g., Owls, Spurs), provided they do not detract from the Academy culture.

## **Semi-Formal Events**

Special moments in the life of the Academy, including dances and end-of-year ceremonies (such as promotion), are signified by semi-formal dress. Specific guidelines for attire for semi-formal events will be communicated as events are scheduled and announced.