

Dress Code

Clothing communicates who we are and what we are about. The important development of the virtue of dressing well, in wide varieties of situations, is a learned skill that honors human dignity. **Wearing school uniforms reminds us that we are engaged in solidarity and in the important work of forming hearts and minds of Disciples of Christ.** The encouragement of authentic individuality based on character, affability, competence, and excellence - not on the externals of clothing, builds a strong school community.

Information within the "Attire" and "Appearance" sections of the Student Code of Conduct in the 24-25 handbook takes on a **positive format to clearly state expectations of what is allowed to be worn**, rather than getting lost in the mire of what is not allowed, and empowers students to make informed decisions about appropriate daily uniform attire as well as personal appearance. **This clarity reduces ambiguities and allows for fairness and consistency in enforcement of these expectations by adults.**

Our school uniform helps to create an atmosphere that minimizes competition among students from various socioeconomic backgrounds and in turn maximizes convenience for our families. The uniform promotes self-respect, protects human dignity, and fosters pride in the West Catholic community. Students need to be in dress code attire when the day begins - not calling parents to bring them appropriate items once they arrive at school.

Any apparel, whether listed or not, that is deemed inappropriate by faculty or staff will not be permitted. If an item is not specifically listed, that does not mean it is allowed.

Uniform Attire

Requirements for All Students

All uniform items will be purchased from **Tommy Hilfiger Global Schoolwear Uniforms** at <https://www.globalschoolwear.com/school/WEST04>.

Boys:

Polo Shirt or Oxford Shirt
Long pants or Shorts
Vest, Sweater, or Fleece

Girls:

Polo Shirt or Oxford Shirt/Blouse
Skirt, Skort, Shorts, or Long pants
Vest, Sweater, or Fleece

Uniform Guidelines for All Students

Students must be in proper uniform attire from when they enter the building in the morning until they leave the building to go home in the afternoon/evening. While students wait for extracurricular activities to start, they must remain in their school uniform until changing into other appropriate attire at the beginning of their activity/practice/competition/performance.

The oxford dress shirts for boys and dress oxford blouses for girls must be worn on Mass days.

Uniform shirts must be worn under all sweaters, vests, and fleece. **Only plain white t-shirts** are to be worn under the uniform shirts and there will be no layering (long sleeve under short sleeve). **Except for the top button**, all polos and oxfords will be completely buttoned.

Shorts and skirts may be worn year round at parent's discretion.

No alterations will be made to a uniform item's appearance.

Cutting off shirt sleeves or hemming skirts, rolling skirts to make them shorter, or cuffing shorts or pants to make them shorter is strictly prohibited.

Shoes – Tennis or gym shoes are preferred. Leather (colors black, brown, or tan only) "dress" sandals (including Birkenstocks) are permitted, but socks must be worn.

Not permitted: CROCS, flip-flops, athletic sandals, slippers

Socks – Socks must be worn and must be visible.

Belts - Black or brown may be worn with pants and shorts.

Items not permitted during the school day

Headwear: hats, bandanas, sweatbands, sweatshirt hoods, ball caps, etc.

Sunglasses

Neck chokers or collars

Piercings (tongue, nose, and eyebrow) and ear gauges

Visible tattoos (temporary or permanent)

Band-aids worn to conceal piercings or tattoos

Personal Appearance

Dyed hair of any unnatural color is not permitted. Hair styles must not hang over the student's eyes.

Female Specific Guidelines

- The bottom of the uniform skirt must be **no shorter than 2" above the top of the knee - in the front and back!**
- The female dress oxford/ blouse is designed to be untucked and the polo shirt may be tucked in or untucked as well. However, all camis or plain white t-shirts worn under the uniform tops must be tucked in and not hanging out the bottom of the uniform tops.
- All undergarments must be flesh colored or white under the white uniform tops (e.g. no hot pink sports bra showing through).
- Leggings, solid black in color (no pattern or texture) may be worn under skirts, with socks.

Male Specific Guidelines

- Shirts are to be **tucked in** at all times upon entering the school building.
- Belts are highly recommended.
- Males will be clean shaven and hair is to be neatly groomed.
 - Students needing to shave at school will receive a detention (**on the same day**). **Failure to serve the detention will result in a double detention and ineligibility to participate in any athletic or extracurricular activity until the double detention is served.**

- Hair is to be **styled so as to be** above the eyebrows, top of the ears, and shirt collar. Braided, twisted, straightened, or permed hairstyles must also follow the same standard.
- Hair **may not be** pushed to the side or tucked behind the ears.
- Hair **height** will not exceed three inches on the top of the head and **sideburns** will not extend below the bottom of the earlobe.
- Mustaches, chin hair, razor stubble, beards, mohawks, buns or ponytails **are not permitted**.