

# Dress Code

Clothing communicates who we are and what we are about. The important development of the virtue of dressing well, in a wide variety 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 25-26 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 uniform attire as well as personal appearance. **This clarity reduces ambiguities and allows for fairness and consistency in the 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 [globalschoolwear.com/school/WEST04](https://globalschoolwear.com/school/WEST04).

#### Boys:

- Polo Shirt or Oxford Dress Shirt\*
- Long Pants or Shorts
- Vest, Sweater or Fleece (optional)

#### Girls:

- Polo Shirt or Oxford Dress Shirt / Blouse\*
- Skirt, Shorts or Long Pants
- Vest, Sweater or Fleece (optional)

## **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 may change into other school-appropriate attire until their activity/competition/performance begins.

The Oxford dress shirts for boys and dress Oxford blouses or Co-ed oxford for girls **must be worn on Mass days**.

Uniform shirts must be worn under all sweaters, vests and fleeces. **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 the parent/guardian'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. However, due to the longer length of the current Tommy Hilfiger shorts, hemming no higher than 2" above the knees is warranted and acceptable.

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

**Not permitted:** breathable/foam clogs, 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**

- Leggings (or skintight bottoms of any sort) UNLESS they are black leggings worn as a layer UNDERNEATH a uniform skirt
- Headwear: hats, bandanas, sweatbands, sweatshirt hoods, ball caps, etc
- Piercings (tongue, nose and eyebrow) and ear gauges
- Visible tattoos (temporary or permanent)
- Band-aids worn to conceal piercings or tattoos.
- Sunglasses
- Neck chokers or collars

## 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 ineligibility to participate in any athletic or extracurricular activity until the detention is served.**
- Hair is to be **styled so as to be** above the eyebrows, above the top of the ears and above the shirt collar. Braided, twisted, straightened or permed hairstyles must also follow the same standard.
- Hair **may not be** pushed to the side, pulled back 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**.