

Appendix B: Dress for Excellence - Uniform Policy

Why do most Catholic schools require uniforms? The tradition goes back to Medieval times when caps and gowns were required at universities. All students, regardless of background, would dress alike and would all show an outward sign of their dedication to the task of learning together within the university community.

From the very beginning, uniforms have been in support of three goals: **modesty**, **professionalism**, and **community** (school spirit). Our uniform policy aims at the same three goals.

- We have all heard the expression, “He/she is just being modest.” This usually means that the person resists drawing attention to himself in speech or dress, which is a form of humility. We ask our students to dress modestly on campus, whether they are in uniform or out of uniform.
- We ask students to wear the uniform so they look professional. The work we do at school is extraordinary, set apart from the ordinary routines of life. In our Western tradition, we dress up for extraordinary events to show their importance. We dress up for Mass, for the work day, and we dress up for school. We ask that the uniforms are neat and clean, that ties are neatly fastened, and that accessories are fitting for a professional atmosphere.
- The uniform is an affirmation of community. When a student carefully adheres to the uniform code he or she is saying “Yes, I buy in. I am part of this team and I am proud to show it.” Particularly for our upperclassmen, this is an aspect of leadership, a way of showing the younger students the right thing to do.

At Chesterton Academy of Sacramento, we strive to learn the things that are important for our life in this world, as well as in the next. Professionalism, modesty, and community are important parts of that effort.

ORDERING INFO

Chesterton Academy’s uniform vendor is **SchoolBelles**. Uniforms may be purchased online at www.schoolbelles.com. Our unique school code is **S3028**. Please purchase all (*) items directly from this vendor.

UNIFORM MARKET

We realize that many children grow quickly during these years and that sizing can be a challenge. Though we are not able to host a used uniform “swap” at this time, we see this as an important need in the future as the school grows.

Ladies' School Uniform Policy

ITEM	COLOR	DESCRIPTION
Skirt*	Navy/Gray Houndstooth	Length required is mid-knee. If one's full kneecap is exposed while standing straight, the skirt is too short.
Oxford Shirt*	White	Embroidered button-down, short or long sleeve.
Modesty Shorts	Black or gray	Modesty shorts are to be worn under the skirt at all times.
Knee Socks*	Navy	Knee highs must reach the knee.
Tights (optional)	Navy	Tights must be opaque with feet (no leggings).
Dress Shoes	Solid Black	Must be a dress shoe with closed toe and full back; may be a lace-up dress shoe. No Keds, Sperrys, Vans, Toms or Converse, or similarly styled shoes. No boots. No tags/labels/symbols on the outside of the shoe.
Sweater/Vests	Navy w/Logo	Embroidered V-Neck sweater vest or pullover; <i>Sweaters are optional but strongly recommended.</i>
Blazer*	Navy w/Logo	Solid navy dress blazer with logo on chest pocket.
Ladies Choir Attire	Black	Black floor-length formal dress. Must be purchased from Stage Accents at www.stageaccents.com . Dress style is Sarina #8655. Sold un-hemmed.

Hair, Make-Up and Accessories

- Makeup should look natural. Eyeliner should not extend beyond the natural lash line.
- Nail polish is allowed but should be muted, tasteful and professional.
- Hair accessories should be tasteful and professional. No headbands with athletic logos. No bandana headbands.
- Necklaces should be metal chains (no leather or woven materials; scapulars are always acceptable). No tightly-fitting necklaces such as chokers.
- Earrings should be worn in the lobe *only*, and *only* one set of earrings may be worn at a time.
- No cartilage piercings, gauges, or tattoos.

- All jewelry should be tasteful, professional and not excessive in size or number.
- Hair color should be natural hues. No streaks of unnatural colors (reds, pinks, greens, etc.) on any part of hair.
- Attention to personal hygiene displays respect for oneself and for others. All students are expected to be attentive to their own personal hygiene needs.

Gentlemen's School Uniform Policy

ITEM	COLOR	DESCRIPTION
Pants*	Gray	Pants must be purchased from the uniform store to ensure uniformity of fabric and color. <i>Monogrammed leaf is optional.</i>
Oxford Shirt*	White	Embroidered button-down; short or long sleeve.
Socks	Black	Socks must reach mid-calf.
Leather Dress Shoes	Solid Black	Must be a dress shoe and able to take a shine. Must be solid black, including soles.
Leather Belt	Solid Black	Non-woven, leather belt with simple buckle.
Tie*	Blue & Gold	Four in Hand tie.
Sweater/Vests	Navy w/Logo	Embroidered V-Neck sweater vest or pullover; <i>Sweaters are optional but strongly recommended.</i>
Blazer*	Navy w/Logo	Solid navy dress blazer with logo on chest pocket.
Men's Choir Attire	Black	Black dress pants and suit coat, white dress shirt and black bow tie. Black socks (mid-calf) and dress shoes (polished and in good condition).

Hair and Accessories

- Hair should be above the shirt collar. Hair color should be natural hues. No streaks of unnatural colors (reds, pinks, greens, etc.) on any part of hair.
- All young men should be clean-shaven. No sideburns.
- No visible piercings or tattoos.
- No earrings. Simple chains and medals should be tucked under the shirt. Scapulars are always acceptable.

- Hair color should be natural hues. No streaks of unnatural colors (reds, pinks, greens, etc.) on any part of the hair.
- Attention to personal hygiene displays respect for oneself and for others. All students are expected to be attentive to their own personal hygiene needs.

Appendix C: Out of Uniform Dress Code

We live a full life together within the Chesterton community, enjoying sporting events, dances, and fine art performances both on campus and off campus. We expect all students to present themselves in a way that reflects their great dignity, and to dress in a modest and neat way at all Chesterton events, including those that occur outside of our normal school day.

1. SCHOOL DANCES AND “MORE FORMAL THAN NORMAL” SCHOOL DAYS

LADIES

- Semi-formal dress required (dress, dress pants and tops, skirts)
- Dress and skirt length should match uniform skirt length, which is mid-knee
- If leggings are worn, they must be worn underneath a skirt or dress that reaches to the knee
- When sitting with feet flat on floor, skirt or dress should cover top part of knee
- Necklines of modest cut, and no exposed back, shoulder or midriff
- Dress shoes (no Keds, Vans, Sperry, Toms or Converse-type shoes)
- Sleeveless tops or dresses should have at least 2” of fabric on top of shoulder
- No visible undergarments

GENTLEMEN

- Semi-formal dress required (khakis or better slacks, dress shirt)
- No jeans, shorts, sleeveless shirts, t-shirts, athletic shoes or Sperry, Vans, Toms, Converse-type shoes
- Pants and shirts should be loose-fitting
- No visible undergarments

NOTE: At times our school dances have themes that allow for students to dress in costume. Costume guidelines will be given prior to the dance.

2. CHOIR CONCERT PERFORMANCES, COMMENCEMENT, AND THE CHESTERTON GALA

Choir concert attire (see full choir uniform guidelines for complete description):

- Ladies - black choir gown, black heels or flats
- Gentlemen - black suit, white button-down shirt, black bow tie, black leather belt, dress shoes

3. OTHER SCHOOL EVENTS (retreats, drama productions, athletic events, field days, lectures, after-school extra-curricular activities)

- Dress and skirt length should match uniform skirt length, which is mid-knee
- When shorts are permitted, please adhere to the following guidelines: with arms by your sides, the hem of the shorts must reach below your finger-tips
- No tight-fitting pants or tops
- No sweatpants or flannel pajama bottoms
- No midriff exposed
- No low cut tops
- At least 2 inches of fabric on each shoulder for sleeveless attire
- No ratty, stained clothing
- No undergarments showing at any time