

# Dress for Excellence

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## Uniform Expectations: General Rules for Attire and Appearance

The tradition of school uniforms goes back to medieval times when caps and gowns were required at universities. From the very beginning, school uniforms have been in support of three goals: modesty, professionalism, and community. Our uniform policy aims at the same three goals.

We dress modestly and nicely to go to Mass, share a special holiday meal, or go to work, because we recognize that something special is happening at these times. We want to be present to it in a heightened way. The same is true for school, where scholars' souls are being formed in the mysterious encounter with truth, goodness, and beauty. And we share a single uniform because, as with sports uniforms, the unity of appearance expresses school spirit and builds community. Scholars should take special care to wear their uniforms correctly and neatly, mindful that they are representatives of the school and leaders in an academic environment.

All Chesterton Academy high schools around the country use the same uniform requirements and vendor, which is **Schoolbelles**. Uniforms may be purchased [online](#) or at a local store using our School Code: **S3142**.

The uniform has been standardized to achieve professionalism, ease on schools and parents, and price breaks with Schoolbelles. Uniform standards are outlined below.

**Schoolbelles:** [www.schoolbelles.com](http://www.schoolbelles.com)

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# Uniform Standards for the Ladies

Ladies should aim for a **simple elegance** that is appropriate for these years. Uniforms should always be clean, and blouses always tucked in. Additionally:

- Makeup for ladies must be light, simple, and natural-looking. Foundation, light mascara, and light blush may be worn, but no eyeliner or eye shadow. Chapstick or clear or light lip-gloss is allowed. No colored lipstick or colored lip-gloss are allowed.
- Nails are to be kept well-manicured. Nail polish is allowed but should be muted, tasteful, and professional.
- Hair accessories should be tasteful and professional. No athletic headbands, no bandana headbands, no bright distracting colors. Color of hair accessory should complement the uniform.
- Ladies' hair should always be neatly groomed and clean. Hair color should be natural hues. No streaks of unnatural colors (reds, pinks, greens, etc.) on any part of hair.
- Girls may wear one stud in each earlobe (matching).
- Necklaces should be metal chains and should be tucked into the shirt. No tightly fitting necklaces such as chokers.
- One bracelet and one watch may be worn. (No smart watches allowed, including fitbits).
- No lapel pins.
- All jewelry should be tasteful, professional, and not excessive in size or number.
- No headwear may be worn inside the building (winter hats, baseball caps, etc.).
- No perfumes are allowed.
- All ladies should enter the building in complete uniform and be ready for the day ahead.
- When leaving at the end of the day the uniform in full must be worn until you leave campus.

ITEM	COLOR	DESCRIPTION	SCHOOLBELLES STYLE #
<b>Blazer</b>	Navy w/ logo	The blazer is a finishing item, along with the sweater and vest. A finishing item must be worn from Oct. 1 – May 1. This may be the blazer, vest, or sweater. The vest may be worn under the blazer. The blazer is required for special events and solemnities.	#5820
<b>Skirt</b>	Grades 9-10: 4204 Grey Herringbone  Grades 10-11: 4104 Grey/Blue Plaid	Upper and lower classmen have different skirts. Length required is <b>bottom of knee</b> . Full kneecap should be covered when kneeling on the ground, or the skirt is too short. This usually requires ordering a size <b>long</b> . The skirt should be worn on the waist and not on the hip.	#3521 Two Kick Pleated Skirt  9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> grade Color: 4204 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade color: 4104
<b>Modesty Shorts</b>	Navy or Black	Navy or black bike shorts should be worn under the skirt.	N/A
<b>Oxford Shirt</b>	White	Collar buttons must always be buttoned. The shirt must not gap in front, and there should be no pulling on the buttons. The sleeves may not be rolled at any time. HOW MANY BUTTONS SHOULD BE BUTTONED?	#1770 Short Sleeve #1771 Long Sleeve Color: White - 17
<b>White Undershirt</b>	White	Undershirts are mandatory. White tank-top or camisole. Plain white with no patterns or lace showing. Undergarments should never be visible.	N/A
<b>Socks</b>	Navy	Knee highs must reach knee. Opaque, not cable. The other item numbers are for tights which may be worn in cold weather. For tights, there should be no difference visible in the garments worn from the bottom of the skirt to the end of the toes.	#1640 #1660 #8625
<b>Dress Shoes</b>	Solid Black	Must be a dress shoe with closed toe and full back; <b>may</b> be a lace-up dress shoe or include simple ornaments (e.g. bow, tassel). No Keds, Sperrys, Vans, Toms or Converse or similarly-styled shoe. No tags/labels/symbols on outside of shoe. No moccasins, canvas, or suede.	N/A

<b>Sweater/Vest</b>	Navy with Logo	The sweater is a finishing item, like the blazer. A finishing item must be worn from Oct. 1 – May 1.	#1964 #1983
<b>Ladies' Choir Attire</b>	Black	Black, floor-length formal dress. Purchase from <a href="http://www.stageaccents.com">www.stageaccents.com</a> . #5269 Dahlia girls or #8864 Dahlia Ladies Solid black dress flats. Dress should be hemmed to touch front toe of shoe.	See Description (purchase from stageaccents.com).
<b>PE Attire (Required)</b>	Navy	Navy mesh t-shirt with logo. Navy blue mesh shorts. <b>Must have athletic sneakers.</b> No keds, converse, etc.	TBD
<b>Accessories</b>	Backpack, lunchbox, etc.	Simple designs. No neon colors, words, or graphic images. Small brand logos are OK	Multiple vendors



Acceptable shoes for the ladies.

## LADIES: WHY SKIRTS?

The Chesterton Schools Network requires all female students to wear uniform skirts. Skirts set women apart. The skirt reminds the young lady to carry herself as her worth demands, to remember that she is beautifully made, and to be aware of her feminine dignity.

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# Uniform Standards for the Gentlemen

Gentlemen should likewise aim for a simplicity that is appropriate for these years. Uniforms should always be clean and shirts always tucked in. Additionally:

- Only **solid white** tee shirts may be worn under the white oxford. No wording or pictures on the tee shirt should be visible.
- Simple chains and medals should be tucked under the shirt. No visible piercings or tattoos are allowed.
- One bracelet and one watch may be worn. (No smart watches allowed, including Fitbits. No rubber bracelets representing causes, e.g. “livestrong.”).
- Gentlemen’s hair should always be neatly groomed and clean, with no highlights or dyeing. Hair must be trimmed above the eyebrows, ears, and collar.
- All young men should be clean-shaven with sideburns not extending beyond the middle of the ear. Facial hair is not permitted.
- No lapel pins.
- Gentlemen may not wear cologne.
- No head gear may be worn inside the building (winter hats, baseball caps, etc.).
- All gentlemen should enter the building in complete uniform and be ready for the day ahead.
- When leaving at the end of the day the full uniform must be worn until the student is off campus.

ITEM	COLOR	DESCRIPTION	SCHOOLBELLES STYLE #
<b>Blazer</b>	Navy w/logo	The blazer is a finishing item, along with the sweater and vest. A finishing item must be worn from Oct. 1 – May 1. This may be the blazer, vest, or sweater. The vest may be worn under	#5825

		the blazer. The blazer is required for special events and solemnities.	
<b>V-Neck Sweater/Vest</b>	Navy with Logo	The sweater and vest are finishing items, like the blazer. A finishing item must be worn from Oct. 1 – May 1.	#1993 Long sleeve pullover #1994 Vest
<b>Oxford Shirt</b>	White w/logo	Collar buttons must always be buttoned.	#5760 – Short Sleeve #5761 – Long Sleeve
<b>Socks</b>	Solid charcoal	May be purchased from any vendor as long as they are solid charcoal dress socks that match the pant color and are at least calf-length.	#1645
<b>Leather Dress Shoes</b>	Solid Black	Must be a dress shoe and able to take a shine. Must be solid black, including soles. No obvious brand logos.	N/A
<b>Leather Belt</b>	Solid Black	Non-woven, leather belt with simple buckle. Can be purchased from Schoolbelles or another vendor.	#6307 – 1.25" Smooth Leather
<b>Striped Tie</b>	Gold/Navy Navy/Grey	9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Grade – “Chesterton Stripe” 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade – “Navy/Grey”	#2905 (Note different colors by class)
<b>Pants</b>	Grey		#5202
<b>Choir Attire</b>	White and black	Black dress pants and Suit Coat Solid black bow tie White dress shirt (not Oxford) Solid black dress socks to mid-calf Black dress shoes – polished and in good condition  Some gentlemen choose to purchase a tuxedo from Stage Accents ( <a href="http://www.stageaccents.com">www.stageaccents.com</a> ), the Premier Tuxedo Ensemble with Vest Upgrade. No patterns on bow tie and no pocket squares, lapel pins, vests, etc. allowed.	

<b>PE Attire</b> -	Grey shirt & Navy shorts	Grey mesh t-shirt with logo. Navy blue mesh shorts. <b>Must have athletic sneakers.</b> No Keds, converse, etc.	TBD
<b>Accessories</b>	Backpack, lunchbox, etc.	Simple designs. No neon colors, words, or graphic images. Small brand logos are OK.	Multiple vendors



Acceptable shoes for the gentlemen.

# OUT OF UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

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.

The out-of-uniform expectations are event-specific and will be announced before each event. However, they will always include:

- No ripped or dirty clothing.
- No pajama pants at any school event or practice.
- No overly revealing clothing. For example, there should be no cut-outs in clothing (e.g., shoulder or midriff cutouts), overly tight clothing (any leggings), or short skirts (that hit above the knee). No undergarments showing at any time.
- No text or imagery that does not align with our mission.

## A. SCHOOL DANCES AND "MORE FORMAL THAN NORMAL" DAYS

### Ladies

- Semi-formal dress required (dress, 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 (dress slacks, dress shirt, jacket, tie and belts)
- No jeans, shorts, sleeveless shirts, t-shirts, athletic shoes or Sperry, Vans, Toms, Converse-type shoes
- No visible undergarments

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

## **B. CHOIR CONCERT PERFORMANCES, COMMENCEMENT, AND GALA**

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

- **Ladies** - black choir gown, black heels (no taller than 2") or black dress flats
- **Gentlemen** - black suit, white button-down shirt, black bow tie, black leather belt, black dress shoes

**If at any time during the school year these policies need to be changed, parents and students will be informed. Please be aware that the final interpretation of dress policies resides with the Headmaster.**