



**GreatHearts**<sup>®</sup>  
Invictus

## **Academy Dress Code**

Great Hearts Invictus 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.

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 judgement will be final. The school will make specific exceptions to the dress code as required by 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 extracurricular activity that requires an immediate change in dress.

Parents must provide their scholar(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 GHINV staff at [invictusinfo@greatheartstxschools.org](mailto:invictusinfo@greatheartstxschools.org) for more information.

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

## Middle School Boys Uniform Guidelines

### Required:

- Short- or long-sleeved polo with logo  
*Color:* White or Navy  
*Vendor:* Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara
- Uniform pants or shorts  
*Color:* Khaki  
*Vendor:* Any (style & fabric must be comparable to Dennis Uniform/Flynn O'Hara)

### Classroom-Approved Outerwear (Optional):

- Navy sweater with logo
- V-neck pullover or cardigan with logo
- Quarter-zip sweatshirt with logo

*\*Classroom-approved outerwear is optional to purchase but must be purchased from one of the approved vendors (Dennis Uniform or Flynn O'Hara) and is the only outerwear acceptable inside the classroom.*



*\*Items shown are from Flynn O'Hara. Items from Dennis Uniforms may vary slightly.*

## Middle School Girls Uniform Guidelines

### Required:

- Short- or long-sleeved polo with logo  
*Color:* White or Navy  
*Required Vendor:* Dennis Uniform/  
Flynn O'Hara
- Uniform pants or shorts  
*Color:* Khaki  
*Vendor:* Any (style and fabric must be  
comparable to Dennis Uniform/  
Flynn O'Hara)
- Skirts  
*Color:* Plaid (as pictured)  
*Required Vendor:* Dennis Uniforms/  
Flynn O'Hara

### Classroom-Approved Outerwear (Optional):

- Navy sweater with logo
- V-neck pullover or cardigan with logo
- Quarter-zip sweatshirt with logo

*\*Classroom-approved outerwear is optional to purchase but must be purchased from one of the approved vendors (Dennis Uniform or Flynn O'Hara) and is the only outerwear acceptable inside the classroom.*

*\*Girls have the option of wearing pants/shorts or skirts.*



*\*Items shown are from Flynn O'Hara. Items from Dennis Uniforms may vary slightly.*

## Additional Uniform Guidelines

**Skirts:** The skirt hem may be no higher than just above the knee, both in front and in back. To measure for correct skirt length: properly adjust the skirt at the waist, kneel on a level surface, and measure no more than two inches between skirt's hem and the floor. Skirts must be worn at the waist. Girls choosing to wear the skirt must wear solid black or navy privacy shorts beneath their skirts. Pants are not permitted under skirts or jumpers. Navy leggings are acceptable cooler-weather wear under the skirt.

**Pants & Shorts:** Must have belt loops and a solid, dark belt at least 3/4" wide must be used. No fabric or woven belts are permitted. No jeans (including navy-colored denim) or pants/shorts with external sewn pockets, rivets, or other jean-like characteristics are permitted. No Dickies, cargo pants, oversized pants, super-baggy pants, dungarees, extra pockets, extra zippers, extra seams, or form-fitting pants (i.e. jeggings) will be permitted. Pants and shorts should not be excessively tight or loose fitting. Pants and 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.

**Accessories:** Undershirts may be worn but should not be visible. Long-sleeved undershirts may not be worn under short-sleeved polos. Boys may wear a single chain/necklace that is not visible above the collar and a watch (not a smartwatch). Watches may be a simple analog or digital watch (no smart watches or Fitbits). Any watch that is Bluetooth capable and/or connects to WIFI or internet is considered a smartwatch.

## Footwear Guidelines

Students may wear either Keds School Days shoes (white and navy blue) or any **solid white, solid black or black/white combination** athletic shoes. Shoes should be primarily leather, synthetic leather or canvas and have flat soles. Shoes must have laces which must always be tied. **Slip-on, Mary Jane, or platform style shoes are not acceptable.** Students must wear solid white, solid black, or solid navy socks that are free of logos. Socks must be visible; no-show socks are not permitted. For girls, tights, knitted stockings, knee-high socks and fold-over socks are acceptable.

### Examples of Approved Shoes



## Examples of Not Approved Shoes



## Hair, Jewelry, Grooming, and Makeup

**Hair:** Hair should be neatly combed or styled. Hair must be natural looking and conservative in color and cut (no bleaching, unnatural streaking/highlighting, no artificial jet- black coloring, and no unnatural colors). Accommodations for religious and cultural reasons are permitted. **Girls' Hair:** Neat small bows, barrettes, scrunchies, and headbands are permissible so long as they are uniform colors (navy, white, black, or vendor-purchased plaid). Small hair ties may be uniform colors or may match natural hair color. **Boys' Hair:** Hair should be neatly combed or styled and must be above the top of the shirt collar. Hair should be styled so that it does not fall below the eyebrows or past the midpoint of the ear.

**Jewelry:** Girls may wear one pair of short earrings only on the ear lobes. "Short" means that the earrings should not hang more than ½ inch below the ear lobe. Large hoops or other dangling or distracting earrings are not permitted. Loops are not to be larger than the size of a nickel. No body-piercing jewelry except traditionally- located earrings will be permitted. One simple ring on each hand is permitted. One wrist bracelet, one watch (no Smartwatches permitted), and one small necklace are permissible. Only simple, fine-gauged, 16- to 20-inch, silver, or gold chain necklaces (with or without a pendant) are permitted. The following will not be permitted: chokers, beaded necklaces (colored or otherwise), leather necklaces, shells, large or elaborate chain-link, and large or elaborate pendants (larger than an inch in length, width, or diameter). Boys may not wear earrings.

**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.

**Makeup and Nail Polish:** Girls may wear subtle makeup only if it is applied tastefully and in moderation. Heavily lined eyes, gaudy lipstick, and glittered or white powdered faces will not be permitted. Fingernails should not be excessively long and may only be painted in light pink or beige. Tasteful French manicures are acceptable. No shades of red, blue, green, yellow, purple, or black are permissible, nor are glittered, speckled, or patterned nail polish.

## Outerwear

**Inside the academic building.** Official school sweaters and quarter-zip sweatshirts as described in the uniform guidelines are the only outerwear allowed to be worn inside the classrooms and may be worn year-round throughout the school day. It is strongly recommended that these items are labeled with the scholar's full name and class section in the event they are lost. Iron-on labels or embroidered names are acceptable; embroidery should be no larger than ½ inch in height in white lettering.

**Outside the academic building.** Jackets and sweatshirts (including spirit jackets/hoodies with the GHINV 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., Mavericks, TCU) and small brand name logos (e.g., the Ralph Lauren "polo"), provided they do not detract from the academy culture. 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. **Please label all outerwear.**

### **Additional Outerwear Guidelines:**

- Hats and sunglasses may not be worn in the building.
- No temporary or permanent tattoos are permitted. This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin.
- No oversized or baggy clothing will be permitted.

## Spirit Wear

*Spirit wear* refers to shirts/outerwear sold directly by the school or PSO. Homemade spirit wear is not permitted. Spirit wear will be allowed on days designated by the Headmaster.

## Dress Code for P.E (Grades 6 & 7 Only)

P.E. uniforms are required for sixth & seventh grades. P.E. shirts and shorts must be purchased from the approved vendors. Shoes must follow the same guidelines as the general uniform policy.

## Dress Code for Athletics and Special Events

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

Pants/shorts should be modest and in good condition (no holes, etc.). Pants and shorts should be worn at the waist, no shorter than mid-thigh, and no longer than just below the knee. No undergarments may be visible.

Jackets and sweatshirts may be worn to school for warmth but must be free of logos and messages, with the following exceptions: sports team logos (e.g., Lions, Spurs) and apparel brand name logos (e.g., the Ralph Lauren “polo”) are acceptable, provided they are tasteful and do not make inappropriate allusions.

Footwear should be athletic in nature: no sandals, open-toed, or platform shoes. Hats and sunscreen may be appropriate if the students are in the sun. Hat styles should follow the same guidelines as above.

## Semi-Formal Event Dress Code

There are specific, semi-formal dress requirements for special events, including periodic fine arts concerts and the end-of-year ceremonies.

The semi-formal dress code for young men is as follows: dress slacks (no jeans or patched pocket pants), a dress shirt, tie, dress socks, dress shoes. Dyed/bleached hair or hats are not permitted. Hair should be trimmed and styled appropriately.

The semi-formal dress code for the young ladies is as follows: modest-length skirts or dresses (no shorter than the uniform skirt); bare midriffs are not acceptable; ladies may not wear strapless, spaghetti-strap, or tank tops. Girls should wear dress shoes. Although dress sandals (open-toed dress shoes) may be worn, flip-flops or “Y” strapped shoes are not permitted. No dyed/bleached hair.

## Backpacks, Lunch Boxes, and Water Bottles

Backpacks, lunch boxes, and water bottles should be appropriate for school and free of pop culture images or references. **Please label all backpacks & lunchboxes.** Examples of acceptable backpacks and lunchboxes:



All students will need a water bottle for school every day. For safety reasons, we ask that water bottles be made of plastic or metal, not glass. **Please label all water bottles.** Examples of acceptable water bottles:

