



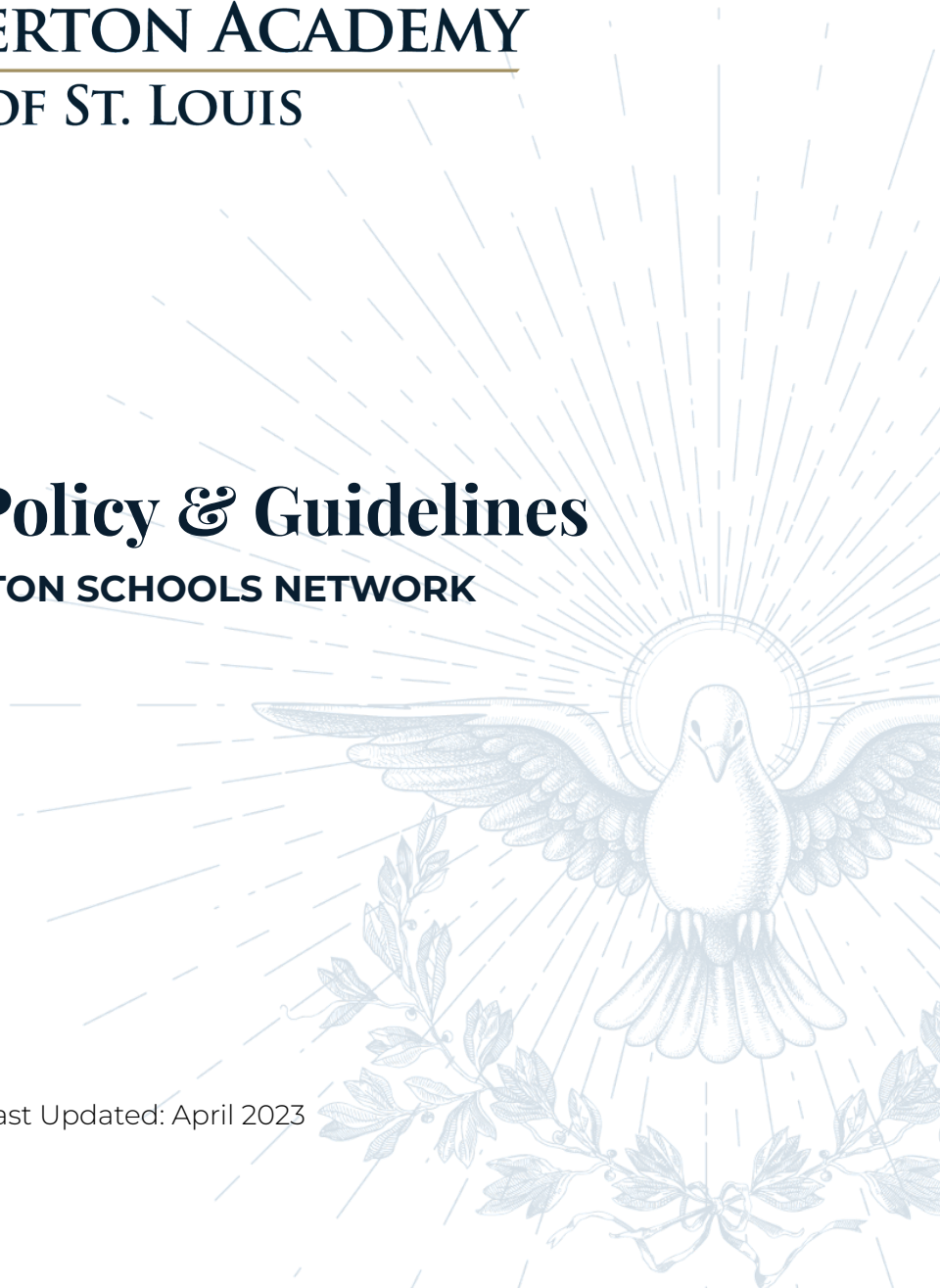
CHESTERTON ACADEMY

OF ST. LOUIS

Uniform Policy & Guidelines

CHESTERTON SCHOOLS NETWORK

Last Updated: April 2023



I. About Our Uniform Policy

The school dress code for member schools in the Chesterton Schools Network contributes to a sense of school unity and connection to the broader CSN community. Our dress code is designed to enhance and elevate the learning atmosphere, while adding a sense of pride and professionalism.

School uniform elements for purchase through our vendor, SchoolBelles, are outlined in Sections IV and V of this document.

Uniforms should always be neat, clean, and fit appropriately. All students are to present themselves in a manner consistent with their God-given dignity. Students are to follow the dress code or uniform that accords with their biological sex.

II. Why Uniforms?

One of the most common questions we receive is why member schools in the Chesterton Schools Network, like most private Catholic schools, require uniforms.

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

From the very beginning, school uniforms have helped achieve three goals: **modesty**, **professionalism**, and **community**. Our uniform policy aims to achieve the same three goals.

MODESTY

We have all heard the expression, “He/she is just being modest,” usually when someone resists drawing attention to themselves. This phrase captures the heart of modesty because modesty is a form of humility. Modesty resists calling undue attention to oneself in speech or in dress. We ask our students to dress modestly on campus whether they are in uniform or out of uniform.

PROFESSIONALISM

We ask the students to wear the uniform so they look professional. The work that we do at school is part of a student’s life that 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 and for the work day, and we dress up for school. We ask that the uniforms are neat and clean. Our young men wear ties that are neatly fastened, with shirt cuffs rolled down and buttoned. Our young ladies wear skirts and choose accessories that are fitting for a professional atmosphere.

COMMUNITY

Finally, 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.” For our upperclassmen, this is an aspect of leadership, a way of showing the younger students that the right thing at Chesterton Academy is to affirm the importance of citizenship in our community and to bring new students into full membership in that community.

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

III. Uniform Vendor

The Chesterton Schools Network has selected **SchoolBelles** as its approved uniform vendor, based on pricing, quality, and service. Uniform components for ladies and gentlemen are detailed in the following pages.

“Out of uniform” guidelines are also provided for all Chesterton events, including those that occur outside of our normal school day.

IV. Uniform Policy for Ladies

ITEM	COLOR	DESCRIPTION	SCHOOLBELLES STYLE #
Blazer	Navy w/logo	Required to be worn daily all year. At the school's discretion, students may take them off at certain points during the day	#5820
V-Neck Sweater or Vest	Navy w/logo	The sweater or vest are optional finishing items	#1983 Long sleeve pullover #1964 – Vest
Oxford Shirt	White w/logo	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.	#1770 Short sleeve #1771 Long sleeve
Skirts 9-10 11-12	Grey Grey-Blue Plaid	Length required is mid-knee to below-the-knee. If full kneecap is exposed while standing straight, the skirt is too short. Skirts are to be no shorter than the crease of the back of the knee. This usually requires ordering a size Long. The skirt should be worn on the waist and not on the hip. Navy or black bike shorts should be worn under skirt.	#3521 [skirt style] Two kick pleated Grades 9-10 #4204 - Grey Herringbone Grades 11-12 #4104 - Grey/Blue Plaid
Socks	Navy	Opaque, not cable. Knee highs must reach up to the knee. They should not be at mid-calf or lower.	#8621 Bamboo Knee High #8625 Flat Knit Opaque Tight
Shoes	Black	Must be a dress shoe, solid black leather dress flats with closed toe and full back. Must be polished and clean. Simple ornamentation allowed (e.g., bow, tassel), no tags/labels/symbols on outside of shoe. No moccasins, canvas, or suede. No Keds, Sperry, Vans, Toms, Converse or similarly styled shoe.	N/A
White Undershirt Optional	White	If needed for warmth. Plain white with no patterns or lace showing. Undergarments should never be visible.	N/A
Choir Attire	Black floor-length formal dress. Purchase from www.stageaccents.com . #5269 Dahlia Girls or #8864 Dahlia Ladies black floor-length formal dress. Solid black dress flats. Dress should be hemmed to touch front toe of shoe. If questions, please ask before hemming.		

Note: Uniforms may be purchased online at www.schoolbelles.com.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Ladies should aim for a simple elegance that is appropriate for the high school years.
- Uniforms should always be clean and blouses always tucked in.
- Ladies should enter the building in complete uniform, and the uniform must be worn in full until leaving campus at the end of the school day.
- No sweatshirts, hoodies, or other non-uniform jackets should be worn over the uniform.

HAIR GUIDELINES

- Hair should always be neatly groomed and clean.
- Hair color should be of natural hues. No streaks of unnatural colors (ex. reds, pinks, greens, etc.) on any part of hair.
- Hair accessories should be tasteful and professional. Color of hair accessories should complement the uniform.
- No hats may be worn inside of school buildings.

MAKEUP GUIDELINES

- Makeup must be light, simple and natural-looking.
- Nail polish is allowed but should be muted, tasteful, and professional.

JEWELRY AND OTHER ACCESSORY GUIDELINES

- All jewelry should be tasteful, professional, and not excessive in size or number.
- Traditional watches may be worn, but smartwatches are not allowed.
- Necklaces should be metal chains (no leather or woven materials). No tightly fitting necklaces such as chokers.
- Earrings should be in the lobe only. No gauges.
- No body piercings or tattoos are allowed.

V. Uniform Policy for Gentlemen

ITEM	COLOR	DESCRIPTION	SCHOOLBELLES STYLE #
Blazer	Navy w/logo	Required to be worn daily all year.	#5825
V-Neck Sweater	Navy w/logo	The sweater is a finishing item, along with the blazer	#1993 – Long sleeve pullover #1994 – Vest
Oxford Shirt	White w/logo	Collar buttons must always be buttoned.	#5760 – Short sleeve #5761 – Long sleeve
Pants	Grey	Plain Front with Laurel Monogram Color 821 w/ small monogram (7322)	#5202 – Plain
Socks	Grey	May be purchased from another vendor as long as they are solid charcoal grey dress socks that match the pant color and are at least calf length. Ankle or calf may not be exposed at any time. Gold Toe Charcoal are the best and can be purchased at Kohl's or online.	#1645 Crew Sock Oxford Gray 3 pack better quality, also covered under lifetime guarantee
Shoes	Black	Must be a solid black dress shoe, including soles, and able to take a shine and have non-scuff soles. No obvious brand logos. Shoes are always required.	N/A
Belt	Black	Non-woven, leather belt with a simple buckle. This can be purchased at Schoolbelles or from any vendor.	#6305
Tie 9-10 11-12	Gold/Navy Navy/Grey	Color for ties is either "Chesterton Stripe" for underclassmen or "Navy/Grey" for upperclassmen.	#4827 Grades 9-10 <i>Chesterton Stripe</i> Grades 11-12 <i>Navy / Grey</i>
Choir Attire	Black dress pants and suit coat, white dress shirt (not oxford) and solid black bow tie. Solid black dress socks (must be to mid-calf) and black dress shoes (polished and in good condition). Some gentlemen choose to purchase a tuxedo from Stage Accents (www.stageaccents.com), the Premier Tuxedo Ensemble #ENSB. No patterns on bow tie and no pocket squares, lapel pins, vests, etc. allowed.		

Note: Uniforms may be purchased online at www.schoolbelles.com.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Gentlemen should aim for a simplicity that is appropriate for the high school years.
- Uniforms should always be clean, shirts ironed, and always tucked in.
- Only solid white tee shirts may be worn under the white oxford. No wording or pictures on the tee shirt should be visible.
- Gentlemen should enter the building in complete uniform, and the uniform must be worn in full until leaving campus at the end of the school day.
- No sweatshirts, hoodies or other non-uniform jackets should be worn over the uniform.

HAIR GUIDELINES

- Hair should always be neatly groomed and clean.
- Hair color should be of natural hues. No streaks of unnatural colors (ex. reds, pinks, greens, etc.) on any part of hair.
- 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 hats may be worn inside of school buildings.

JEWELRY AND OTHER ACCESSORY GUIDELINES

- Traditional watches may be worn, but smartwatches are not allowed.
- Simple chains and medals should be tucked under the shirt.
- No earrings, body piercings, or tattoos are allowed.

VI. 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 (khaki's 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 midriff exposed
- At least 2 inches of fabric on each shoulder for sleeveless attire
- No ratty, stained clothing
- No undergarments showing at any time