

UNIFORM DRESS CODE

The students of St. Mary's Catholic School in Pontiac have the honor of wearing a uniform to school. The uniform is an outward sign to the community that signifies how highly valued education is to the parents and students of our school. Students should wear the uniform with pride and respect for the long tradition of Catholic education at St. Mary's. If, due to an emergency, it is necessary for a child to come to school without the entire uniform, the child should bring a note from home as to the reason he/she is unable to wear the entire uniform.

St. Mary's School has a uniform dress code to establish a business-like atmosphere in the classroom. It is mandatory that parents support this dress code. They should see that children leave their homes well-groomed and in uniform. There is a correlation between the pride students take in their appearance and the pride they take in their schoolwork and in their school.

Boys' Uniform

- Navy blue or khaki pants with a belt (no jeans, cargo pants, hip-hugger pants, or sweatpants are permitted).
- White or navy blue (long or short-sleeved) polo shirts. Turtlenecks or mock turtlenecks may also be worn. No T-shirts or shirts with emblems are allowed. Shirts should be tucked in at all times.
- Solid navy blue, khaki, black, or white socks must be worn with pants and shorts.
- A plain navy cardigan or school-designated crew neck sweatshirt may be worn over the uniform if desired. Hoodies may not be worn in the classroom as part of the uniform.

Girls' Uniform

Girls in Kindergarten through Grade 3:

- A navy blue or khaki scooter style skirt (with built-in shorts) OR a solid navy blue or khaki jumper (with shorts underneath). Skirts and jumpers should be of modest length (no shorter than two inches above the knee). Girls may wear solid navy or black leggings under skirts in cold weather.
- Girls also have the option of wearing navy blue or khaki slacks with a belt (no jeans, cargo pants, hip-hugger pants, or sweatpants are permitted). If pants have a belt loop, a belt must be worn.
- White or navy blue (long or short-sleeved) polo shirts. Turtlenecks or mock turtlenecks may also be worn. No T-shirts or shirts with emblems are allowed. Shirts should be tucked in at all times.
- Solid navy blue, khaki, black, or white socks must be worn with skirts, jumpers, Capri pants, and shorts. In place of socks, girls may also wear solid navy, khaki, black, or white knee socks or tights.
- A plain navy cardigan or school-designated crew neck sweatshirt may be worn over the uniform if desired. Hoodies may not be worn in the classroom as part of the uniform.

Girls in Grade 4 through Grade 8:

- A navy blue or khaki scooter style skirt (with built-in shorts). Skirts and jumpers should be of modest length (no shorter than two inches above the knee). Girls may wear solid navy or black leggings under skirts in cold weather.
- Girls also have the option of wearing navy blue or khaki slacks with a belt (no jeans, cargo pants, hip-hugger pants, or sweatpants are permitted).
- White or navy blue (long or short-sleeved) polo shirts. Turtlenecks or mock turtlenecks may also be worn. No T-shirts or shirts with emblems are allowed. Shirts should be tucked in at all times.
- Solid navy blue, khaki, black, or white socks must be worn with skirts, jumpers, Capri pants, and shorts. In place of socks, girls may also wear solid navy, khaki, black, or white knee socks or tights.
- A plain navy cardigan or school-designated crew neck sweatshirt may be worn over the uniform if desired. Hoodies may not be worn in the classroom as part of the uniform.

Physical Education Uniform

Students in Grades 4 through 8 will wear a P.E. uniform consisting of light blue T-shirts, plain navy gym shorts, white or navy socks, and tennis shoes. No emblems should be worn on clothing. P. E. shorts should be no shorter than three inches above the knee.

Additional Dress Code Requirements

- Shoes: For safety's sake, no flip-flops or sandals are allowed. These rules apply on fieldtrips and casual days. In colder months, snow boots should not be worn during the school day except for recess. Dress/causal boots (Ugg style) may be worn by the girls during the winter months (November through March).
- Hair: Hair is not to cover the eyebrows of students. Moreover, boys are not to have their hair long enough to touch their collar, nor are they to have their hair longer than midway's length on the ear. Hair coloring and unnatural or attention-seeking hairstyles are not allowed. The principal will make the final decision if a hair style is not satisfactory.
- Make-up: The use of age-appropriate or natural make-up during the school day or to school events is acceptable, but not encouraged.
- Jewelry: Tasteful jewelry will be allowed. Long, dangling earrings or noisy or excessive jewelry should not be worn. Boys are not allowed to wear earrings.
- Body Piercing and Tattoos: No body piercing or tattoos are allowed. The principal may make decisions regarding other "fads" as problems occur.

Hot Weather Dress

During the months of August through September and after spring break through June, both boys and girls have the option of wearing navy blue or khaki walking shorts (no cargo shorts) with their uniform shirts. All other times will be at the discretion of the principal. The shorts must be no higher than three inches above the top of the knee on both boys and girls. Girls may also choose to wear uniform-style Capri pants in navy blue or khaki. If the shorts have a belt loop, a belt must be worn. White, khaki, black, or navy socks must be worn.

Casual Clothes Days

For an announced casual clothes day, students may wear jeans, sweatshirts, sweatpants, T-shirts, and so on. Shorts and Capri pants are only allowed when announced by the principal. For the sake of modesty, any shorts, including those worn for P.E. and/or as part of the uniform, should be no shorter than three inches above the knee. Emblems supporting drug or alcohol use or containing obscenities or material in poor taste are never allowed. Bike shorts, leggings, or other immodest articles of clothing are not allowed. T-shirts must be worn under tank tops.

Compliance with the Uniform Policy

Teachers are to monitor student dress to see that it is in accordance with the dress code described in this handbook. If a student's dress does not conform to the code, the student will be sent to the office to call a parent and will be required to conform to the code before returning to the classroom. In the event that a parent is not available to take the student home or to bring the necessary clothing, the student will be issued a written warning regarding the infraction, and the parents will be required to sign and return the notice. Consistent failure to conform to the uniform dress code will be considered a disciplinary matter and will be handled in accordance with the discipline policy. After three warnings have been issued for uniform infractions, the student will be given detentions for further violations.