



DRESS CODE

Ordinary dress at school is the school uniform which provides a variety of options, especially in the upper grades. When students are required to dress in their uniforms it is important that the guidelines for dress as stated in the handbook are followed, i.e., dress shoes and not sneakers or sandals, shirts tucked in neatly, etc.

There will occasionally be school functions where the uniform is not worn. Whether we are talking about uniformed dress or free dress at school functions, it is important to keep in mind the *spirit* of the dress code, rather than allow ourselves to get bogged down in questions of specific styles or articles of clothing. Uniformed dress demands that students conform to a set standard; freedom of dress demands that they give thought to conforming to the demands of a social atmosphere with an attitude of respect and understanding – understanding for their own dignity as God's creation and as temples of the Holy Spirit, as well as respect for others.

The *spirit* of the dress code as it should be observed everyday could be easily summarized as follows:

- Christian modesty applies to both men and women and is a virtue which must be cultivated in our lives and understood in the context of our culture. Immodesty is characterized by dressing in such a way that causes undue attention to be drawn to oneself.
- Students should never dress at school in a way that distracts themselves or others from the purpose of the day which is learning. Attitude and dress are related and casual dress tends to foster attitudes of leisure.
- Education is a privilege and the classroom is a place deserving of respect. We should always dress appropriately to any occasion, reflecting the respect the occasion deserves.
- Aquinas Academy students are privileged to attend Mass each day. Our appearance must reflect our belief that we are participating in a holy and sublime event each time we come into our Lord's presence to celebrate the holy sacrifice.
- Students should be freed from any tendency toward competition of dress while at school so they can focus their full attention on their studies.

Dress Code – Girls

Academy students are to be neatly attired for school, exhibiting good judgment and taste. Judgment in these matters is subject to the interpretation of the administration. Grooming should not include "faddish" hair styles (e.g. bleached, colored, etc.), tattoos, or body piercing, other than the ear. Earrings must be small

and simple. Large hoops and draping earrings are not permissible. Necklaces may consist of a simple chain and pendant in good taste. Chokers, buttons, and wrist bands are not a part of the uniform. Uniforms should be clean and neat, **with shirts tucked in at all times. Faculty reserves final judgment on proper attire.**

Grades Kindergarten through 5th

School Plaid Jumper

White Polo Style Shirt or White Peter Pan collar Blouse (Short or long sleeved) or Turtleneck in White or Navy

Navy Dress Slacks

Navy or Red School Monogram Sweater (Cardigan or V-Neck)

Crew socks (short socks that cuff at the ankle) or knee socks in White or Navy

Opaque Tights in White or Navy

Ankle length navy leggings are permitted under skirts in the cold winter months

Dress Shoes (such as mary janes, Sperrys, etc. that do not have a tennis shoe type sole; no ankle boots)

During September and May/June, uniform dress shorts in navy may be worn. These shorts must be purchased through the uniform providers only.

Grades 6th through 8th

White Oxford Dress Shirt

Turtleneck in White or Navy (Turtleneck may only be worn under oxford blouse)

School Plaid Skirt (3 types)

Navy Dress Slacks (see guidelines below)

Navy or Red School Monogram Sweater (Cardigan or V-Neck)

Navy V-neck vest with school logo

Socks worn with skirts must be KNEE SOCKS in White or Navy

(white or navy crew socks permissible with pants)

Opaque Tights in White or Navy

Dress Shoes (e.g., Sperrys, flats, or any shoe that does not have a tennis shoe type sole; no ankle boots)

* Makeup should be limited to a small amount of blush and/or lip gloss, and appropriate color nail polish

Grades 9th through 12th

White or Blue Oxford Dress Shirt

Turtleneck in White or Navy (Turtleneck may only be worn under oxford blouse)

Navy School Blazer OR Navy or Red V-Neck or Cardigan long sleeve Aquinas

Crest Sweater (Nov. 1 – Mar. 31)

School Skirt (Navy for fall and spring; Gray Nov. 1 – Mar. 31)

Navy V-neck vest with school logo

Khaki Dress Slacks (see guidelines below)

Socks worn with skirts must be knee socks in White, Gray or Navy

(White or Navy Crew socks permissible with pants)

Opaque Tights in White, Gray, or Navy

Panty Hose (Plain)

Dress Shoes (e.g., Sperrys, flats, or any shoe that does not have a tennis shoe type sole; no ankle boot)

*Makeup use should be moderate and appropriate in color

Applies to all

Skirt length must be to the top of the knee. **Plain** white t-shirts may be worn underneath oxford shirts. Dress slacks do not include cargo or jean-style pants and should not be low-rise or tight fitting. High school pants are to be khaki in color (not “sand” or “putty”). Pants are to be alike in color and style to the uniform pants available through our uniform suppliers. Hiking boots, tennis shoes, sandals, clogs, open-toed or open-heeled shoes are not permitted. Moccasins and shoes that have a tennis shoe type sole are not permissible.

Dress Code – Boys

Academy students are to be neatly attired for school, exhibiting good judgment and taste. Judgment in these matters is subject to the interpretation of the administration. Grooming should not include earrings or other piercing, neck chains, tattoos, decals, writing on skin, or “faddish” hair styles (e.g. bleaching, colored, half-shaved hair, etc.) **Male students must be cleanly shaven** and hair should be of moderate length, not covering the ears and no longer than the nape of the neck. Bangs must be above the eyebrow, and hair length should be no longer than 4” measured from the scalp. Uniforms should be clean and neat, **with shirts tucked in and ties properly tied at all times.**

Grades Kindergarten through 5th

White or Navy Polo Style OR White Oxford Dress Shirt (Short or long sleeved)
Navy School Monogram Sweater (Cardigan, Crew, or V-neck)
Navy School Monogram Vest
Dress slacks in Navy or Khaki
Socks in Navy, White or Black
Dress Shoes (e.g., oxfords, Sperry’s, loafers, etc.)

During September and May/June, uniform dress shorts in navy or khaki may be worn. These shorts must be purchased through the uniform providers only.

Grades 6th through 8th

White Oxford Dress Shirt (Short or long sleeved)
Navy School Monogram Sweater (Cardigan, Crew, V-neck)
Dress slacks in Navy or Khaki
Socks in Navy, White, Khaki or Black
Middle-School Tie (Regular or slip style)
Dress Belt and Shoes (e.g., oxfords, Sperry’s, loafers, etc.)

Grades 9th through 12th

White Oxford Dress Shirt (Short or long sleeved)
Navy Blazer (Worn from November 1 to March 31)
Navy lightweight vest may be worn with blazer if desired.
(Vest may not be worn other than with the blazer.)
Dress slacks in Navy or Khaki
Socks in Navy, White, Khaki or Black
Upper-School Tie
Dress Belt and Shoes (e.g., oxfords, Sperry’s, loafers, etc.)

Applies to all

Plain white t-shirts may be worn underneath oxford shirts. Dress slacks do not include cargo or jean-style pants and should not be low-rise. Slacks are to be khaki in color (not “sand” or “putty”) and must be alike in color and style to the pants available through our uniform suppliers. Hiking boots, tennis shoes, sandals, open-toed or open-heeled shoes are not permitted. Dress shoes may be black, tan, burgundy or brown and should not have a tennis shoe sole (including Keds’-type sole)

Uniform Suppliers

Uniform items may be purchased through SchoolBelles or Land’s End. In particular the plaid items and school ties must be purchased through SchoolBelles. Monogrammed items may only be purchased through SchoolBelles.

SchoolBelles

(code # 2229)
4721 McKnight Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(412)630-8480
www.schoolbelles.com

Lands’ End Direct Merchants Landsend.com/school

(800)469-2222
Aquinas Academy Preferred school #9000-9100-0
(Catalog available in the office)

Gymnasium Uniforms (Boys and Girls)

For gym class, students are to wear **the Aquinas Academy gym short, available for ordering at school, and an Aquinas Academy team t-shirt or other Aquinas t-shirt.** Note that during the winter months, navy or black sweatpants may be worn. Lycra/Spandex running gear, yoga pants, and leggings are not acceptable gym wear. Proper gym shoes and socks are also required. Students not properly attired will still be required to participate in gym class wearing proper attire that will be lent to the student for that class period and will receive a reminder notice. For middle school and high school students, a dress code infraction will be issued when not in gym uniform. Three dress code infractions earn detention. **Students in grades 1 through 5 may wear their gym clothes to school on gym days and remain in those clothes throughout the day. Kindergarten wears play clothes on gym days.**

NOTE THAT THE STROBES FROM “LIGHT-UP” SHOES CAN BRING ON SEIZURE ACTIVITY IN STUDENTS WITH CERTAIN HEALTH CONDITIONS AND SHOULD NOT BE WORN TO SCHOOL.