



## 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 streaks, unnatural colors, shaved, etc.), tattoos, or body piercing, other than the ear. Earrings must be small and simple. Large hoops and draping earrings are

not permissible. Necklaces must be in good taste. Chokers, buttons, and excessive or inappropriate wrist bands are not a part of the uniform. Uniforms should be clean and neat, **with shirts tucked in at all times. NO SWEATSHIRTS MAY BE WORN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. Faculty reserves final judgment on proper attire.**

### Grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup>

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)

Navy LS/MS School Monogram Uniform Quarter-zip (through Spirit Wear order)

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.) Short ankle boots (not snow boots) are permissible as well.

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

### Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>

White Oxford Dress Shirt

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

School Plaid Skirt (3 types) or Skort (skirt with attached short)

Navy Dress Slacks (see guidelines below)

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

Navy LS/MS School Monogram Uniform Quarter-zip (through Spirit Wear order)

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.

### Grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>

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 OR HS School Navy Monogram Uniform Quarter Zip (through Spirit wear) (required 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 Girls**

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.

### **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, 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. NO SWEATSHIRTS MAY BE WORN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. Faculty reserves final judgment on proper attire.**

### **Grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup>**

White or Navy Polo Style OR White Oxford Dress Shirt (Short or long sleeved)  
Navy School Monogram Sweater (Cardigan, Crew, or V-neck)  
Navy LS/MS School Monogram Uniform Quarter-zip (through Spirit Wear order)  
Navy School Monogram Vest  
Dress slacks in Navy or Khaki  
Socks in Navy, White or Black  
Dress Belt (grades 4-5)  
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 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>**

White Oxford Dress Shirt (Short or long sleeved)  
Navy School Monogram Sweater (Cardigan, Crew, V-neck) OR  
Navy LS/MS School Monogram Uniform Quarter-zip (through Spirit Wear order)  
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, Sperrys, loafers, etc.)

### **Grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>**

White Oxford Dress Shirt (Short or long sleeved)  
Navy Blazer OR HS School Navy Monogram Quarter Zip (through spirit wear) (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, Sperrys, loafers, etc.)

### **Applies to all Boys**

**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.

### **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 sweaters may only be purchased through SchoolBelles. Quarter Zips are available through Spirit Wear at Aquinas.

### **SchoolBelles**

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

### **Lands’ End Direct Merchants**

[Landsend.com/school](http://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, Aquinas sweatpants and sweatshirts or plain navy or gray sweatpants or sweatshirts 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.**