

K-8 UNIFORM POLICY, DRESS CODE & STUDENT APPEARANCE 2016-17

The dress code pertains to all students at St. James/Seton Catholic School. Parents are expected to support and enforce this code and to be certain that children are dressed neatly, appropriately, and in a modest and conservative manner. This will allow teachers more time for classroom instruction.

The St. James/Seton Catholic School administration in conjunction with Dennis Uniform, Educational Outfitters of Omaha, Alamar Uniform, and Cornerstone Custom Apparel, will establish the standard as to the color, style, and length of the particular uniform item. Uniform items purchased at these companies have been pre-approved by the SJS administration. Items purchased elsewhere may not fit the intent or parameters of the dress code policy. If in doubt as to the color, style, etc., of a uniform item it is recommended to get pre-approval from a school administrator.

STUDENT APPEARANCE

Students will be expected to keep themselves well-groomed and neatly dressed. Articles of the uniform must be clean, in good condition, and of the designated color. Any form of dress, grooming, or hair style that is considered contrary to good hygiene or that is distracting, disruptive in appearance, or detrimental to the purpose or conduct of the school as determined by the administration will not be permitted.

- If for any special circumstances a child needs to be out of uniform, a written note stating the reason must be sent by a parent and approved by the administration.
- Final interpretation of the appropriateness of dress will be determined by the school administration.

BOYS' DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Boys are to have neatly trimmed hair with at least the bottom half of the ears exposed and not touching the top of the collar. Hair on the forehead cannot be touching the eyebrows.

Boys will not display facial hair, and sideburns may not be longer than halfway down the ears. Hairstyles must not be disruptive to the educational process (for example: no mohawk, etc.). No gaudy or unusual cuts, designs, artificial highlights or unnatural colors are allowed.

Simple neck chains, watches, and rings are permitted. No body rings or piercings (including ear piercing) are allowed for boys. Distracting, faddish jewelry and buttons are not allowed. No tattoos of any kind (permanent or temporary) are allowed.

- **Pants:** Solid (no design) navy blue dress pants or cords may be worn; no jeans are allowed. Pants must follow the color code, be in good condition, and not faded or tattered. Pants with cargo pockets are not allowed. Pants can be purchased at the uniform stores mentioned above or through J.C. Penney uniform. All slacks for students in Grades 5-8 must have belt loops.
- **Belts:** Simple black, brown, or blue belts are to be worn with slacks and shorts in Grades 5-8. Belts must be worn at the waist.
- **Shirts:** Uniform yellow, long or short sleeved shirts that button down the front, pullover knit shirts with a collar and buttons, and yellow turtleneck shirts may be purchased elsewhere as long as the color and basic style are identical to the color standard set by the administration and uniform companies noted above. Long sleeved polo shirts are acceptable.

Turtlenecks cannot be worn under short-sleeved shirts. T-Shirts worn under shirts must be short sleeved and solid white (no writing or patterns). Shirts must be tucked in at all times to show the waistband/belt.

Pullover or cardigan sweaters (navy only) are permitted over shirts (collars out). The official St. James/Seton School navy sweatshirt is permitted over the yellow shirts (collars out). No other sweatshirts or outerwear may be worn during school hours at any time other than recess.

- **Shorts:** Navy shorts consistent with the uniform companies may be worn August through October and April/May only. All shorts for students in Grades 5-8 must have belt loops.
- **Shoes:** Shoes with eyelets must have laces and be tied. There are also styles of shoes that for potential safety reasons will not be allowed. These include boots, crocs, clogs, sandals, platform, and wheeled shoes. This list is not inclusive as to all of the types of shoes that would be considered inappropriate for school use. Shoes must have a closed-in heel. Handwriting is not allowed on shoes. Gym shoes must be worn for Physical Education classes. Shoes that mark the floor may not be worn.

Please note that the administration still has the option of determining that a particular pair of shoes is inappropriate, distracting, and may not be allowed to be worn with the uniform. Extremes (as defined by the administration) will not be allowed.

- **Socks:** Socks must be worn at all times. The uniform colors for socks need to be primarily navy, black, white, or gray. Socks must match and rise above the top of the shoe.

GIRLS' DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Girls' bangs are not to touch/cover the eyebrows. Long bangs are to be pinned back. Distracting cuts, colors, styles, and ornamentations (such as multi-colored or embellished hair bows, barrettes or headbands) are not allowed. Girls may wear plain, solid colored barrettes, ribbons, and narrow width headbands to keep the hair out of her face as long as they are not distracting and/or dangling. No unnatural artificial hair coloring is allowed. Girls are allowed to wear the plaid hair accessories sold at the approved uniform vendors.

Simple neck chains, watches, and rings are permitted. No body rings or piercings are allowed for girls other than earrings, which can only be in the earlobe. Small "stud type" earrings are allowed, no dangles. Distracting, faddish jewelry and buttons are not allowed. No tattoos of any kind (permanent or temporary) are allowed. Excessive use of make-up is not permitted in the Junior High (Grades 7-8), which will be determined by administrator and teacher; no make-up is permitted in other grades.

- **Pants:** Solid (no design) navy blue twill dress pants or cords may be worn by all students; no jeans, leggings, stirrups, or knit pants are allowed. Pants must follow the color code, be in good condition, and not faded or tattered. Pants with cargo pockets are not allowed. Pants can be purchased at the uniform stores mentioned above or through J.C. Penney uniform section of the catalog. All slacks for students in Grades 5-8 must have belt loops.
- **Belts:** Simple black, brown, or blue belts are to be worn with slacks and shorts in Grades 5-8. Belts must be worn at the waist.
- **Uniform plaid jumpers, skorts, and skirts:** Uniform jumpers, plaid skorts, plaid skirts, and navy skorts are supplied by all uniform companies listed above. All are to be no more than 3 inches from the top of the kneecap. Rolled waistbands are not allowed. These articles can be worn as follows:
 - Grades K-6:** Uniform jumper, plaid or navy uniform skort, or uniform skirt
 - Grades 7-8:** Uniform plaid or navy skort or uniform skirt

All skorts must be purchased through one of the approved companies listed above. Styles and colors of skorts purchased elsewhere will not be permitted.

- **Shirts:** Uniform yellow, long or short sleeved shirts that button down the front with Peter Pan or Oxford collars, pullover knit shirts with a collar and buttons, and yellow turtleneck shirts may be purchased elsewhere as long as the color and basic style are identical to the color standard set by the administration and uniform companies noted above. Long sleeved polo shirts are acceptable. Turtlenecks cannot be worn under short-sleeved shirts. T-Shirts worn under shirts must be short sleeved and solid white (no writing or patterns). Shirts must be tucked in at all times to show the waistband/belt.

Pullover or cardigan sweaters (navy only) are permitted over shirts (collars out). The official St. James/Seton School navy sweatshirt is permitted over the yellow shirts (collars out). No other sweatshirts or outerwear may be worn during school hours at any time other than recess.

- **Shorts:** Navy shorts consistent with the three uniform companies sizing for inseam may be worn August through October and April/May only. All are to be no more than 3 inches from the top of the kneecap. All shorts for students in Grades 5-8 must have belt loops.
- **Shoes:** Shoes with eyelets must have laces and be tied. There are also styles of shoes that for potential safety reasons will not be allowed. These include boots, crocs, clogs, sandals, platform, and wheeled shoes. This list is not inclusive as to all of the types of shoes that would be considered inappropriate for school use. Shoes must have a closed-in heel. Handwriting is not allowed on shoes. Gym shoes must be worn for Physical Education classes. Shoes that mark the floor may not be worn.

Please note that the administration still has the option of determining that a particular pair of shoes is inappropriate, distracting, and may not be allowed to be worn with the uniform. Extremes (as defined by the administration) will not be allowed.

- **Socks/Tights:** Socks or tights must be worn at all times. The uniform colors for socks need to be primarily navy, black, white, or gray. Socks must match and rise above the top of the shoe. Tights may be black, navy, or white. Leggings or footless tights are not allowed.

SPIRIT DAYS

On Spirit Days students may wear jeans, sweatpants, or wind pants with a uniform shirt, uniform sweatshirt, or with a SJS spirit shirt or sweatshirt. Jeans may not be torn or have holes in them. Tight pants are not allowed (for example: yoga pants and leggings). Uniform shorts are allowed on spirit days when shorts are part of the dress code (August-October and April-May).

Occasionally the SJS administration will designate a special “dress-down” day featuring a specific color, for example a red day or green day. T-shirts and non-uniform sweatshirts of the designated color may be worn on that particular day. The t-shirts or sweatshirts must be in good taste with no abusive or offensive language or graphic images. No advertisements for alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products are allowed. All other rules and standards contained in this document are still applicable.

Please note the distinction between “spirit days” and “dress down days.” Spirit days are more frequent and require the student to wear a uniform shirt, uniform sweatshirt, or an SJS spirit shirt. The key feature of the shirt is to demonstrate school and/or parish spirit. Shirts that demonstrate approved programs of either the parish or the school will be allowed. (i.e. SJS athletic programs, Kids for Jesus, Scouts, etc.)

PROCEDURES & CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

When dealing with issues associated with dress or appearance, a child's age and grade level is taken into consideration. As our children get older and proceed through the SJS educational system, we expect them to have an increased ability to be more responsible for themselves and their actions. The Uniform policy can be adjusted at any time by the administration.

Final interpretation of the appropriateness of dress and consequences for non-compliance is determined by the school administration. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, a Dress Code Violation form, a demerit, a room/office detention. Chronic dress code violations may require an administrative meeting with the parents or loss of privileges.