



ST. MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

## **Lower School Uniform and Backpack Tips from the Teachers**

### **Backpacks**

Early Childhood backpacks should be at least 15 inches long and 10 inches wide to accommodate a lunch box and a folder. The teachers are experts at evaluating the durability and longevity of backpack brands and strongly recommend Jansport, L.L. Bean, Land's End and Stephen Joseph.

### **Lunch Boxes**

Early Childhood teachers request that lunch boxes are fastened by a zipper instead of Velcro or snaps for ease of use by the student. Learning to manage lunch items is an independence goal in all Early Childhood classrooms.

### **Early Childhood Rest Time**

Preschool 3s and Pre-K students need a small blanket or towel for rest time. The children are taught to fold their own blankets and store them in their cubbies. The size must be "just right" for resting, folding and storing. Parents are asked to refrain from purchasing (and sending to school) thick bed rolls or rest mats. They are cumbersome for storage and difficult to send home for washing.

### **Modesty Shorts for Girls**

All Lower School girls are asked to wear navy modesty shorts under their dress uniform jumper.

### **4th Grade Uniform Suggestions**

It is suggested that parents of 4th Grade students make sure that pants, skirts and jumpers have extra hem length for the January growth spurt!

### **School Supplies**

Lower School students are supplied with all student materials. We ask your help in keeping smelly erasers and special pens and markers at home for weekend art projects.

**Footwear**

The uniform guidelines have been modified and now require that all Lower School students wear athletic shoes that are secured by elastic, laces or Velcro on both daily and dress uniform days. The color requirement has been removed. Boots and ballet flats for girls are now an option for free dress day only. Our students have recess daily and PE several times each week, requiring a shoe that helps children move safely around campus.

**Boys and Belts**

Boys are asked to wear belts with pants that have belt loops beginning in 1st Grade. Our slim 1st Grade boys have the option of pants and shorts with elastic and do not need to add a belt to these pants. Early Childhood students do not need a belt.

**Shirt Size**

Please keep in mind that shirts purchased several sizes too big can't be tucked into shorts, pants or skorts. Students in 1st - 4th Grade are asked to keep shirts tucked in at all times with the exception of the fitted, red, girls polo. This shirt has a small button placket, vents at the hem, and fits just below the waist. A unisex polo may have vents but it must be tucked in for neatness.

*For a full list of uniform requirements, please [click here](#).*