

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year

Dear Parents,

As we prepare for a new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for entrusting your children's education to St. John's School. We are committed to providing the best possible learning experience for all of our students.

Last year, we reached out to you to get your feedback on our dress code. Thank you for providing that in an honest and thoughtful way. We have listened to this feedback from our school community regarding the dress code, and plan to make some changes in order to bring clarity, to meet the needs of our community and, most importantly, to allow teachers and students to focus on their goal of learning. As such, we did not issue a more prescribed dress code or uniform in 2023-2024, but rather a simplified version.

We do, however, continue to have two requests for our families and we ask that you give this your full support.

One of our goals is to create an environment that promotes excellence and success. To that end, I would firstly like to encourage all of our students to **dress well for school**. Neat and tidy clothes can help set the tone for a productive day of learning and can also promote a sense of pride and respect for oneself and others. It can also help prepare our students for the expectations of the future workplace. We additionally recognize that we live and work in community, and our clothing choices affect the atmosphere in which other children learn and play.

As the principal of a Christian school, I would secondly like to encourage all parents to dress their children **modestly** for school. Modesty is an important value that we instill in our students, and appropriate dress is a key part of that. By dressing modestly, our students are demonstrating respect for themselves and others, and are reflecting the values that we hold dear as a Christian community. Admittedly, what we each consider "modest" can vary, and as such I urge everyone to approach this with maturity and

faithfulness. My hope is that we will always err on the side of modesty: pushing boundaries and walking a fine line ends up causing frustration for everyone and uses time that should be spent on learning and enjoying our time at school. Let's create a positive and wholesome learning environment that honors God and encourages personal growth and development.

With these two goals in mind, our dress code is simplified. A small number of clothing items that will not be permitted are listed on the following pages, with some examples. Outside of these items, please feel free to dress your family in neat, modest and clean clothing of your choice. If you are looking for ideas, please consider collared shirts, khaki-style pants and neat jeans as an ideal way to reflect a scholarly and modest approach to our day.

I believe that this dress code agreement allows for personal expression while maintaining a safe and respectful environment in the school setting. I appreciate the cooperation of our students, parents, and staff in following the spirit of this dress code agreement, and therefore avoiding the need to implement a formal uniform in coming years.

During the first two weeks of school, our staff will be helpful to all students as they work to meet the dress standard. I ask all families to likewise take a supportive and proactive approach.

Thank you for your support in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our staff. We look forward to a wonderful year of growth and success for all of our students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Phillip Barnard
Principal, St. John's School



Dress Code

Grades K-4

Above the waist:

Tops should cover the shoulders and midriff, even when moving and stretching. Tank tops (including tank top sports jerseys) and crop tops are not allowed without additional covering.

Below the waist:

Shorts, skirts and dresses should reach at least mid-thigh. Sweatpants, basketball-style and running shorts are not allowed.

Neat athleisure and golf-style shorts and pants are permitted. **Leggings are permitted in K-4 grades.**

On the feet:

Shoes should be worn at all times. Open-toed shoes, including Crocs and flip-flops are not allowed for safety reasons. Shoes with wheels are not permitted.

Other:

Clothing with offensive language or images, or that is torn, is not permitted, as determined by St. John's School staff.

Hats and hoods may be worn outside, but must be removed from the head when inside the building.

Students are expected to dress appropriately for physical education classes, which will require athletics shoes.

Grades 5-8

Above the waist:

Tops should cover the shoulders and midriff, even when moving and stretching. Tank tops (including sports jerseys) and crop tops are not allowed without additional covering.

Below the waist:

Shorts and skirts should reach at least mid-thigh (no more than 4 inches above the knee is good). Sweatpants, basketball-style and running shorts are not allowed. **Leggings are not permitted unless worn under appropriate shorts or skirts.** Neat athleisure and golf-style shorts and pants are permitted.

On the feet:

Shoes should be worn at all times. Open-toed shoes, including Crocs and flip-flops, are not allowed for safety reasons. Shoes with wheels are not permitted.

Other:

Clothing with offensive language or images, or that is torn, is not permitted, as determined by St. John's School staff. Hats and hoods may be worn outside, but must be removed when inside the building.

Grades 6-8 students must dress in the St. John's physical education attire for gym class, but return to dress code when not in gym class.

Example Tops

Acceptable tops:

Does cover the shoulders or midriff.



Unacceptable tops:

Does not cover the shoulders or midriff.



Example Bottoms

Acceptable bottoms:

Does go past mid-thigh, neat golf-style pants, neat jeans.



Unacceptable bottoms:

Does not reach mid-thigh, have holes, or are basketball, running shorts, sweatpants or leggings.

