

**DRESS
CODE
2023-2024**



ST. MATTHEW
THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

DRESS CODE

The purpose of a dress code is to minimize influences that distract from the goals of the school and to forestall competition among the students. Catholic schools realize that the changing culture and the surroundings shape our students. The dress of our students should reflect the dignity and worth of each person in light of Catholic principles. Therefore, we expect each student to dress and groom him or herself in a manner that is modest, clean, and appropriate to a Catholic school learning environment. St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic School students are expected to adhere to the following dress code:

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Accessories: Religious necklaces appropriate for a Catholic school are permitted. Crosses no larger than 2" in length are permitted, as long as they are not a disruption/distraction to learning. No cords, ribbons, wires, strings, etc. are permitted. Only one necklace may be worn. One bracelet or wristband is permitted if it does not distract from the educational process. Rings are not permitted. Female students may wear one set earrings to school. Earrings should not extend below the ear lobe. Multiple sets of earrings are not permitted. Male students may not wear earrings to school. No other body piercings are permitted. **Watches are not permitted.** Students will be asked to remove any jewelry or accessories that are offensive or distracting.

Hair: Hairstyles and cuts are to be neat and clean. Hair should not obstruct vision in any way. Male students' hair must be off the ear, above the collar and above the eyebrows. Male students are to be clean-shaven. All hairstyles should be conservative with a natural hair color: no extreme styles or colors. Female students may wear hair accessories that complement the uniform. Accessories must be solid gray, maroon, black, white or school plaid. No embellishments are permitted. Hair accessories are not permitted for male students. *Final decisions regarding hair are left to the sole discretion of the administration.*

Perfume/Cologne & Make-up/Fingernail Polish: Perfume, cologne or body spray is not permitted. It is distracting in the classroom and some students may have allergies to fragrances. No makeup is permitted in PK-5. Female students in grades 6-8 may wear minimal makeup that is in good taste: no lipstick may be worn. Lip gloss is permitted in neutral shades, clear, or pale pink. For all female students PK-8, nail polish must be clear or pastel in color. Neon shades, design decals, glitter, and artificial nails are not permitted.

Tattoos: Visible tattoos, including ink and rub-on temporary tattoos are not permitted.

Hats, Outerwear: Hats and boots may be worn to school when necessitated by weather. Students must change into acceptable shoes upon arrival. Hats, coats, hooded sweatshirts and jackets (other than the St. Matthew Fleece Jacket) are not permitted to be worn in the building.

Sweaters or Vests: Hip-length cardigan, pullover or sweater vests may be worn. No hoods. Sweaters or vests must be solid gray, maroon, navy or white; these can be from any store if consistent with the noted color and style. Shirt collar must be visible. Track jackets may only be worn

with the gym uniform. Please see the Gym Uniform section for specifics.

Socks: No socks are permitted that call undue attention. Small logos are permissible on athletic-style socks. School spirit socks may only be worn with the gym and/or warm weather uniform. Please see specific sections in the continued pages of the Dress Code for additional detail.

Fleece: The uniform fleece may be worn with the gym and dress uniform.

Spirit Wear: Spirit wear that is sold through the Athletic Association or School Days is not approved as part of the school uniform.

Undershirts: Only solid, plain white short sleeved or tank-style undershirts may be worn. Undergarments should be worn when appropriate and should not be visible at any time.

**No brand logo may be visible on shirts, undershirts, sweaters, vests, pants, shorts, or accessories

Mass Attire (Weekly Attire vs. All School Mass Attire)

For regular, weekly Mass, students are permitted to wear the uniform they have for the school day be it the PE, Warm Weather, Dress uniform, etc. Track pants are to be worn over gym shorts if attending weekly Mass in the PE uniform.

The standard dress uniform is required for All School Masses - pants, jumpers, dress shoes.

STANDARD MALE DRESS UNIFORM

Slacks & Belts: Solid, navy uniform-style dress pants in twill or corduroy. Pants must be hemmed and not elastic at the ankle. Uniform slacks that are not purchased through School Days must match the sample slack in both style and material (not dry fit). Cargo style pants are not permitted. A belt is required with uniform pants. Belts must be leather or cloth, and visible at all times; belts may be black, brown or navy with a conservative buckle.

Shirts: Shirts can be short or long sleeved: polo-style (not dry fit) shirts can be solid white or solid maroon in color and may have the St. Matthew logo, tailored oxford-style dress shirts are also acceptable. Shirts may be short or long-sleeved with a collar and may have the St. Matthew logo. Shirts must be buttoned up to the second button from the top and shall remain tucked in at all times.

Ties in Grade 8: Male students in grade eight may wear ties to school; ties are required for grade eight on Mass days, religious celebrations and special activities throughout the school year. Ties are to be worn with button down, oxford-style shirts. The knot of the tie must cover the top button of the shirt. All buttons on the shirt must be buttoned including the top button when wearing a tie. Only solid maroon ties or maroon & black striped ties purchased from the School Days Uniform store are permitted.

Socks: Solid gray, black, maroon, navy or dark colored must be worn. Socks must cover the ankle with the dress uniform.

Shoes: Solid colored black, navy, dark brown, gray or tan dress shoes. Shoes must be leather, flat, oxford, or loafer styles. No athletic-style shoes, boots, slippers, moccasins, cloth tennis shoes, sandals, Vans, or Crocs. If shoes have laces, they must be tied and should match the predominant color of the shoe. Heels/soles of shoes may not be greater than 1”.

STANDARD FEMALE DRESS UNIFORM

Jumpers: Jumpers must come within 2" of the knee cap. Females students in grades Kindergarten through five wear the School *plaid* jumpers. Female students in grades six through eight wear *solid maroon* jumpers.

Slacks & Belts: Solid, navy uniform-style dress pants in twill or corduroy. Pants must be hemmed. Uniform slacks that are not purchased through School Days Uniforms must match the sample slack in both style and material. Cargo styles are not permitted. A belt is required with uniform pants. Belts must be leather or cloth, and visible at all times; belts may be black, brown or navy with a conservative buckle.

Shirts: Polo-style shirts are permitted with the plaid jumper in grades K-5. Polo-style shirts are also permitted with slacks and shorts (warm weather uniform). Polo shirts can be solid white or solid maroon in color and may have the St. Matthew logo.

A Solid white, tailored, oxford style dress shirt can be worn with all jumpers but *must* be worn with the maroon jumper in grades 6-8. Shirts can be short or long-sleeved. Shirts must have a collar (rounded or pointed) and may have the St. Matthew logo. Shirts must be buttoned up to the second button from the top and shall remain tucked in at all times.

Socks: With Jumpers, tights, mid-calf, or knee socks are to be worn and are only permitted in solid gray, maroon, navy or white. No embellishments or logos are permitted. With slacks, solid gray, maroon, black navy or *dark colored* must be worn. Socks must cover the ankle with the dress uniform.

Leggings: Black leggings may be worn under the jumper during cold weather. Socks must be worn under leggings.

Shoes: Solid colored black, navy, dark brown, gray or tan dress shoes. Shoes must be leather, flat, oxford, or loafer styles. No athletic-style shoes, boots, slippers, moccasins, cloth tennis shoes, sandals, Vans or Crocs. If shoes have laces, they must be tied and should match the predominant color of the shoe. Heels/soles of shoes may not be greater than 1”. Sperry's, Hey Dudes, or similar boat-shoe styles are permitted.

WARM WEATHER UNIFORM

The warm weather uniform is permitted from the first day of school through September 30th and again from May 1st to the close of the school year; it is at the administration's discretion to consider weather conditions and extend the seasonal uniform dates accordingly. In this event, school communication will clearly outline the extension so that families may plan accordingly. Students have the option to wear the standard dress uniform or the warm weather uniform during the warm weather uniform time frame. The warm weather uniform may be worn to weekly Mass with shirts tucked; however, the Dress Uniform must be worn on All School Mass days.

Shorts: Solid navy uniform-style, twill walking shorts. Short length must come within 2" of the middle of the knee cap. Shorts may not be beyond the middle of the knee cap. Shorts must be hemmed. Uniform shorts that are not purchased through School Days Uniforms must match the sample short in both style and material. Cargo styles are not permitted.

Belts: A belt is required. Belts must be leather or cloth, and visible at all times; belts may be black, brown or navy with a conservative buckle.

Shirts: Polo-style shirts are permitted with the plaid jumper in grades K-5. Polo-style shirts are also permitted with slacks and shorts (warm weather uniform). Polo shirts can be solid white or solid maroon in color and may have the St. Matthew Logo.

A Solid white, tailored, oxford style dress shirt can be worn with all jumpers but *must* be worn with the maroon jumper in grades 6-8. Shirts can be short or long-sleeved. Shirts must have a collar (rounded or pointed) and may have the St. Matthew logo. Shirts must be buttoned up to the second button from the top and shall remain tucked in at all times.

Socks: Solid black, gray, neutral, or white socks must be worn. Socks must be visible and should not call undo attention to themselves. Small brand insignias are permitted on athletic-style socks.

Shoes: Athletic shoes are permitted with the warm weather uniform. Shoes must be predominately white, solid black, solid gray or solid navy and may include understated accent colors. No high tops. No lights or wheels. If shoes have laces, they must be tied and should match the predominant color of the shoe or be solid black or solid white in color. Heels/soles of shoes may not be greater than 1". No sandals, flip flops, slippers, Crocs, Vans, or moccasins. Sperry's, Hey Dudes, or similar boat-shoe styles are permitted.

GYM UNIFORM

All Gym Uniform items must be purchased at School Days or the Used Uniform Sale (newer style). No brand logos may be visible with the exception of a small insignia on athletic-style socks. Students will wear the seasonal warm weather PE uniform or cold weather PE uniform (with track pants) that was purchased. The gym uniform may be worn to weekly Mass with track pants over the gym shorts. The Dress Uniform must be worn on All School Mass days.

Shorts: The length of gym shorts must be within 2" (above or below) the middle of the knee cap.

Pants: Solid gray or solid maroon sweatpants are permitted. Maroon track pants from School Days Uniform Store that coordinate with the track jacket are also permitted.

T-Shirts: T-Shirts must be solid gray with the Saint Matthew gym logo on the left chest. Shirts may be short or long-sleeve.

Sweatshirts: Sweatshirts must be solid gray with the Saint Matthew gym logo on the left chest. Sweatshirts with an embroidered solid or plaid "M" logo are also acceptable.

Track Jackets: Track jackets from School Days Uniform Store (that coordinate with the track pants) may *only* be worn with the gym uniform.

Socks: Solid black, gray, navy, neutral, or white socks must be worn. Socks must be visible. St. Matthew Spirit Socks sold by the Athletic Association are acceptable with the gym uniform. No socks are permitted that call undue attention. Small logos are permissible on athletic-style socks.

Shoes: Athletic shoes must be predominately white, solid black, solid gray or solid navy and may include understated accent colors; they should be understated and should not call undue attention to themselves. No lights or wheels. If shoes have laces, they must be tied and should match the predominant color of the shoe or be solid black or solid white in color. Heels/soles of shoes may not be greater than 1".

CATCH THE SPIRIT UNIFORM

If students are wearing Catch the Spirit wear on a regularly scheduled Mass day, they are permitted to wear it to Mass.

Pants: Jeans may be worn provided they do not have holes, are not ripped or torn, or are not too form fitting or low rise (fitting lower than slightly below the waist line). No cutoffs, cargo-style pants, baggy jeans or jeggings. Gym shorts, track pants, or sweatpants as outlined in the gym uniform are also acceptable.

Shirts: Catch the Spirit T-Shirts are provided by the Home and School Association.

Shoes: Shoes can be gym/warm weather uniform shoes, or any other shoe that complies with the Standard Dress Code Guidelines.

DRESS DOWN DAY GUIDELINES

Students must wear sweatpants, jeans, or other acceptable pants or their school gym shorts with an appropriate top on designated dress down days. No spaghetti straps, tank tops, crop tops, tight-fitting, or sheer tops permitted. The school gym shoe policy applies on dress down days.

DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

We expect that all children adhere to the uniform guidelines established in this handbook. Cleanliness and neatness are expected at all times. In situations where discrepancies or disagreements exist with the Dress Code guidelines as to whether attire is appropriate, *the administration shall make the final decision*. The following consequences will be assigned per quarter for students out of uniform:

1st Violation: Communication of expectation by teacher (warning)

2nd Violation: Lunch detention and electronic communication sent home via FACTS

3rd Violation: After school detention and school will contact parent/guardian by phone

4th Violation: In-person meeting with administration and parent/guardian will be scheduled

Some infractions may warrant additional discipline or action to be determined by the administration on a case-by-case basis. Parents may be asked to bring a change of clothing. If hair is not appropriate, students may be asked to go home with a parent/guardian and correct the problem.