

Holy Cross Academy

Uniform Policy and Dress Code

2021-2022

Holy Cross Academy has a mandatory school uniform policy and dress code. The dress code reflects traditional Catholic principles, a commitment to modesty, and a learning environment free from distraction. The dress code contributes to a positive school image, respectful and disciplined conduct, and provides a level playing field free of judgment that may be a byproduct of fashion trends or socioeconomic factors. The dress code also takes safety into consideration and provides a method of quickly identifying individuals who may not have a valid reason to belong on school property. The main policy provides an overview of the HCA dress code for grades K-8.

Personal appearance that is outside of the guidelines set forth below is not permitted. Final approval/disapproval is at the discretion of the Principal.

Our school colors, blue, white, and gold, are represented in our uniforms. As set forth more fully below, an alternate color, medium heather gray, is permitted for polo shirts *only when purchased through Schoolbelles*. Unless otherwise indicated, students are required to be in full uniform, beginning the first day of school.

Adherence to this school policy is a prerequisite to attendance. Parents/guardians are asked, prior to the student leaving home, to cooperate by seeing that students comply with this uniform policy and dress code. If a student is found to be out of uniform, they will be given a Dress Code Violation slip that a parent must sign and return to school the next day.



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UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

NON-MASS DAYS

Shirts - Polos

- Long/short sleeved plain Navy or White. No lace collars for girls.
- Embroidered HCA logo Long/short sleeved in Navy, White or Heather Gray (must be purchased through Schoolbelles).
- Solid white short sleeved undershirts permitted under uniform shirts. No visible logo.

Bottoms – Pants

- Navy or Tan pants in khaki/twill type fabric. **Kindergartners may wear elastic waist/no belt.**
- NO jean, denim, jersey knit material, sweatpants or cargo pants permitted. No outside pockets.

Bottoms – Shorts

- May be worn until Oct. 31 and after March 31.
- Navy or Tan shorts in khaki/twill type fabric. **Kindergartners may wear elastic waist/no belt.**
- Shorts must be knee length or no shorter than 1 inch above knee.
- NO jean, denim, jersey knit material, sweatpants or cargo pants permitted. No outside pockets.

Accessories - Belts

- Belts in Navy, Black or Brown with a plain buckle and no embellishment.
- Belts are required with pants and shorts for Grades 1-8. **No belt required for Kindergarten.**

Accessories – Shoes

- Dress/Loafer style shoes (tie or slip on) in Black, Brown, Navy or Tan.
- Tan or Brown Sperry and docksider shoes permitted.
- NO embellishments, animal prints, sparkles, sequins, etc.
- NO open toe, clogs, crocs, sandals or heels higher than 1 inch permitted.
- **Kindergartners may wear tennis shoes all day, every day.**

Accessories-Socks

- Solid Navy, Black, Tan, White socks only. Socks must match. One small logo permitted on a sock, but not multiple logos.
- Socks must be above the ankle.

Accessories-Hair-Girls

- Solid Navy, Khaki or HCA Plaid headband. Plain or HCA Plaid hair ties/ponytail elastics. Simple, plain hair clips and barrettes. NO headbands or hair accessories that have embellishments.

GIRLS

- Navy, Tan, Holy Cross Academy plaid skirts and jumpers.
- Skirts and Jumpers must be knee length or no shorter than 1 inch above the knee.
- Bike shorts or some other shorts should be worn under skirts and jumpers (either built in or separate).
- Tights may be worn with skirts and jumpers
- No jersey material skirts or jumpers permitted.

MASS DAY

BOYS

- Plain white long/short sleeved button-down dress or oxford shirt.
Kindergarten/1st graders may wear white polo shirt and no tie.
- Pants in Navy or Tan in khaki/twill fabric.
- Undershirts must be plain white.
- Plain Navy or HCA striped tie (HCA tie available at Schoolbelles).
- Belt, socks and school shoes. No tennis shoes, except for Kindergarten.
- NO jean, denim, jersey knit material, sweatpants or cargo pants permitted. No outside pockets.
- NO shorts permitted.

GIRLS

- Plain white long/short sleeved button-down dress or oxford shirt.
- **Kindergarten/1st graders may wear white polo shirt and no tie.**
- Rounded collar permitted. No lace.
- Skirts and Jumpers in Navy, khaki or plaid must be worn on Mass day, no pants.
- Undershirts must be plain white.
- Navy cross snapped tie available at Schoolbelles must be worn.
- Socks or tights in Navy or White
- School shoes. No tennis shoes, except for Kindergarten.
- Plain Navy, Khaki or HCA Plaid headband. Plain or HCA Plaid hair ties/ponytail elastics. Plain hair clips and barrettes.
- No shorts or pants permitted.

APPROVED FLEECE, SWEATERS, PULLOVERS ALLOWED ON ALL SCHOOL DAYS

(Listed below are the ONLY approved outerwear items **for everyday wear**)

- Plain Navy, long sleeved sweaters: crew neck, V-neck, button down or cardigan styles.
- **AVAILABLE THROUGH SCHOOLBELLES:**
 - Embroidered V-neck sweater and V-neck cardigan sweater.
 - Navy microfleece 1/4 zip pullover or full zip jacket. (HCA cross logo)
 - Augusta "Attain" 1/4 zip wicking pullover.
- **AVAILABLE THROUGH SPIRIT STORE**
 - Augusta Medalist 1/4 zip pullover and full zip jacket.

GYM UNIFORM

- Gym uniform and athletic shoes permitted ALL DAY on gym days.
- Holy Cross Academy Logo Gray T-shirt or plain gray T-shirt permitted.
- Navy basketball style shorts or Navy sweatpants or joggers.
- Shorts must be knee length or not more than 1 inch from the knee and can only be worn until October 31 and after March 31.
- **HCA Hooded Sweatshirts may be worn on Gym Days only – not regular school days.** The only HCA Hoodie permitted to be worn on a Gym Day is the Sport-Tek Sport-Wick Fleece Hooded Pullover and the Jerzees Nublend Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt, both purchased from the Spirit Store. This hooded sweatshirt is navy blue in color with Holy Cross Academy Hawk Logo across the chest. **No other HCA teamwear is permitted.**

SPIRIT DAYS

Spirit Days will only be on special occasions and pep rally days as announced.

- HCA Spirit Store long/short sleeved T-shirts
- Warm up jerseys or Athletic uniform jerseys.
- HCA Spirit Store sweatshirts and hoodies.
- Athletic shoes.
- **All other uniform requirements are still in place on Spirit Days.**
 - School pants, shorts and skirts as outlined previously.
 - Belts, socks, hair accessories as outlined previously.
- Students who choose not to participate in wearing spirit clothing must wear the approved school day uniform as outlined previously. Spirit Days are not dress down days.

HCA Spirit Store sales occur throughout the year for Spirit Wear and special-order items. Parent Alert Communication emails and/or flyers to come home to inform parents of opening and closing dates of the spirit store.

DRESS DOWN DAYS

There will be days identified as Dress Down Days for purposes of fundraising, communicated through Parent Communication. Students are to follow the directions for the dress down days in the formal Parent Communication.

For any Fundraiser Dress Down Day, dress must be modest in nature.

Prohibited items on Fundraiser Dress Down Days include, but are not limited to:

- **No leggings for girls in Grades 4-8**
- Hats
- Ripped or torn jeans
- Short tops that show the bare midriff
- Deep V-neck tops
- Baggy pants that show boxers or underwear
- See-through fabric
- Tank tops
- Spaghetti-strap tops
- Clothes with slogans or symbols that, in judgement of the school, are offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate for a school environment
- Short-shorts
- Sandals
- Clogs
- Any other attire that, in judgement of the school, is inappropriate.

It is the responsibility of parents and/or guardians to assure that their children are dressed according to the uniform code. In all cases, the administration reserves the right to evaluate and correct an individual student's interpretation of the uniform policy and to determine and curtail unacceptable articles of dress, jewelry, and hairstyle. When a student is out of conformity with the code, the parent or guardian will be called to bring the proper clothing to school. If the parent or guardian cannot bring the uniform clothing, the school will issue the proper attire to the student from a general supply of uniforms, if available.

Anything that may be determined as a distraction in class will be dealt with by the teachers and administration.

Dress Up Day / Picture Day

There will be days identified as Dress Up Days. Students are to wear Dress Clothes.

Prohibited items are:

- Jeans
- Tennis shoes/Vans/Flip Flops
- Athletic Wear, leggings for girls grades 4-8
- See-through fabric, Bare midriff, low V-necks or clothes that are inappropriate and/or offensive

Uniform Checks

Uniform checks will be periodically conducted to maintain and support proper dress code compliance. If the dress code is violated, a student will receive a written warning, communicated to the parents/guardians. Persistent violations will result in progressive disciplinary action, at the discretion of the School.

Personal Appearance

Students must arrive at school properly groomed. Students should arrive at school dressed neat and clean. Clothing must be in good repair. Please mark all clothing with the student's name, particularly jackets, pullovers, sweaters, and coats.

Hair

Hair is to be neatly combed/brushed/styled with no unnatural hair colors (i.e. bright colors including, but not limited to, green, blue, purple, pink, etc.). No extreme hairstyles. Boy's hair must not cover the eyes or touch the collar of an oxford shirt (button down collar.) Sideburns may not extend below the ear or extend forward toward the cheek. Shaved head or hairstyle including, but not limited to designs, patterns, lines, weaves, spikes, braids, mullets, mohawks or ponytails (for boys) are NOT PERMITTED. Boys must be clean shaven. Students will be sent home to have hair properly groomed not in accordance with school uniform code.

Jewelry/Make-Up/Nail Polish

Girls

- Piercing limited to earlobes only. Stud-style earrings or small hoop earrings are permitted.
- Make-up is permitted for girls in grades 7 and 8 only and must be modest
- Clear lip gloss for girls in grades 7 and 8 only
- One, solid color nail polish is permitted, no accent nails.
- Visible tattoos are not permitted

For safety reasons, no dangling earrings are to be worn, even on school spirit or dress down days. No other visible body piercings are allowed. **Boys may not wear earrings.** No other jewelry is allowed with the exception of watches, or a religious medal or cross worn around the neck.

Hats

Hats and scarves are not to be worn during class time or lunch time. Any scarves or hats worn in cold weather must be put away and may be worn during outside recess.

Uniform Resources

Schoolbelles – Official Vendor for HCA Uniforms*

4721 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Phone: (412)630-8481

Email: www.schoolbelles.com.

Online shopping: Schoolbelles.com

HCA School Code: S1868

*While parents may choose to purchase similar basic items from other vendors, including pants, shorts, polos, and solid color skirts, the colors must be consistent. As noted earlier, medium heather gray shirts and any school plaid items must be bought at Schoolbelles.

UNIFORM RESALE

Holy Cross Academy's uniform resale opens on several occasions throughout the year. This is a great opportunity for parents to purchase gently used or "like new" uniform pieces at a fraction of the cost. Look for communications through Parent Alert for dates of the resale store and dates when donations will be accepted.

Below are guidelines for donating.

Donate:

- HCA PLAID skirts and jumpers
- Navy jumpers and skirts
- Mass shirts
- Ties (Both boys neckties and girls cross snap ties)
- Headbands, belts and accessories
- Polos/pants/shorts in any size, but especially smaller size clothing for students entering K-3
- Embroidered polo shirts in short and long sleeve
- Spirit Wear/Fleece/Medalist Jackets/Sweatshirts/Gym shorts/Gym sweatpants

Please do not donate

- Items that are not compliant with the school dress code
- ANY stained, torn or items with obvious wear or pilling.
- White mass shirts/polos if they are stained and have yellowed or grayed with frequent wash or wear.
- Undergarments, tights or socks.

Please be considerate of these guidelines when donating. *The resale shop is coordinated by volunteers who spend hours sifting through clothes to separate, size and check that they are acceptable for resale.*