

***St. Mark School  
Dress Code***

***Purpose-***

The dress code of St. Mark School is designed to limit competition among students and to encourage uniformity, simplicity, neatness and consistency. The basic purpose of the school is to educate students; therefore, the primary responsibility for compliance lies with the students and their parents. However, staff members will enforce the policy and students are expected to comply or appropriate consequences will be given. Adherence to the policy allows staff to focus primarily on the education of the students. As a rule of thumb, if there is concern about whether or not an article of clothing conforms to the policy, it probably does not. Students who are not dressed according to the uniform policy may be asked to wear articles of clothing out of the school bookstore, which may not fit optimally. Students may also be asked to call home, at the discretion of staff members, for suitable clothing, if alternate clothing is not available. Students in grades 1-8 are expected to comply with the dress code. Kindergarten students are asked to dress comfortably in items that they can zip or button without assistance. Kindergarteners may not wear jeans unless it is an out of uniform day. Each year, 8th grade will be given the opportunity to purchase an eighth grade shirt, which may be worn on mass days and other special days as approved by the administrator. On these designated days, 8<sup>th</sup> graders may also wear approved tan colored pants or shorts during shorts season, with their 8<sup>th</sup> grade shirts. Since the purpose of the differing 8<sup>th</sup> grade uniform is to set these students apart to serve as role models, students may lose the privilege if the administrator deems it appropriate.

***Shirts and Blouses-***

- The uniform color of shirts and blouses is solid light (powder) blue or solid white
- The standing lion logo sold through the bookstore is acceptable
- Another shirt with a school crest design may be sold through the bookstore
- All shirts must have a collar and long or short sleeves
- Shirts worn under the uniform shirt must be solid white in color and not be visible (i.e. no long sleeves may be worn under short sleeves)
- Collars are rounded, Peter Pan style, or button down
- Polo shirts, Oxford style shirts, and turtlenecks are considered uniform
- All shirts and blouses which are not purchased through the bookstore must be solid in color and free of logos, with no decorative stitching or trim
- Shirts are to be tucked in the waistline at all times with belts visible (no rolling)

***Sweatshirts/Sweaters-***

- Sweatshirts/sweaters should be plain, solid gray in color or purchased through the school bookstore (the plaid lettered sweatshirts or large lion head are no longer uniform)
- Sweatshirts must have uniform shirts worn underneath with the collars visible
- Sweatshirts cannot have hoods or zippers
- Sweatshirts are to fit appropriately (not too tight or too loose)

***Jumpers/Skirts-***

- Jumpers and skirts may be either the St. Mark School uniform approved plaid (purchased through Schoolbelles or other vendors approved through St. Mark School) or a uniform style and solid navy
- All jumpers, skirts, or skorts must be of uniform style, above the knee, but not higher than a 3" index card placed at the top of the knee
- Skorts are acceptable as uniform during the shorts season, only if they are of the required color, uniform style, and length

### ***Pants/Slacks-***

- The uniform color for pants or slacks is **navy** blue (this is not a faded blue or black-gray color)
- Pants should have no more than one zipper, located at the waist area, and be free of slits and outer pockets as are found on cargo styled pants
- Pockets should be inner pockets without stitching around the outside
- Pants should be of a cotton, cotton blend, or corduroy nature
- Pants should fit properly (not too tight or too loose). Pants may not be rolled at the waist or at the pant legs
- Pants with belt loops will be required to have either black or brown colored belts and be cinched at the waistline
- Pants should meet the top of the shoe
- In general these types of pants/slacks are not considered uniform: denim, knit, baggies, cargos, bell bottoms, Capri, stirrup pants, sweatpants, or wind pants

### ***Shorts-***

- Shorts may be worn between the dates of May 1 thru October 1 or as designated by the administrator
- Shorts must be navy in color (not faded blue or blackish)
- Shorts should fit appropriately (not too tight or too loose)
- Shorts should be worn at the waistline and a black or brown belt worn if there are belt loops
- Shorts should be uniform style and of walking length – no higher than a 3” index card placed at the top of the knee
- Shorts worn under uniform skirts or jumpers must not be visible below the hemline
- Shorts should not have any outside pockets (no stitching around the pocket)and only one zipper at the waist
- Cargo, baggy, denim, sport or athletic shorts are unacceptable
- Shorts may not be rolled at the waist or legs

### ***Socks-***

- Socks must be plain, solid white, or plain, solid navy
- Socks must be worn above, not at, the ankle bone (which means they will be plainly visible above the top of the shoe); footies are not uniform
- Tights or knee socks may be worn under skirts or jumpers in cold weather and should be solid navy or white
- Socks must be worn at all times

### ***Shoes-***

- All students must have an extra pair of gym shoes, which have white or non-marking soles. These are kept in boxes in the classroom specifically for the purpose of gym class and will be carried back and forth from the gym. Students without the appropriate shoes for gym will not be allowed to participate; therefore, will possibly suffer a grade consequence.
- Shoes must have closed toes and heels and be tied or strapped for the safety of the children
- Boots may be worn in inclement weather, but students should bring another pair of appropriate shoes to change into for the remainder of the school day
- Sandals, high heel, or platform shoes are not uniform
- Shoe color should be plain and non-distracting

### ***Jewelry-***

- Girls may wear earrings which are small and appropriate for school (dangling and medium or large hoop earrings are not approved)
- Simple necklaces may be worn under shirts/blouses
- Staff will ask students to remove distracting jewelry

### ***Make-up/Nail polish/Hair/Perfume-Cologne***

- In general, make- up is not permitted. A small amount of foundation may be applied to cover blemishes
- Nail polish and/or artificial nails are not permitted
- Hair is to be neat and clean at all times
- Distracting/fad styles and colors are not permitted
- Boys should wear their hair above the collar in length and should be free of facial hair and long sideburns
- Perfume/cologne should be minimal and never applied at school due to sensitivities of students and staff members

### ***Fads/Styles/Fashion-***

- Since it is impossible to predict future trends or fads, the administrator and staff may deem any style, fad, or fashion as inappropriate.
- Tattoos, both temporary and permanent, are not allowed

### ***Out of Uniform Days-***

On occasion, students will be allowed to come out of uniform in celebration of an event or as a part of a mission or other charitable collection day. Clothing on these days must still conform to minimum guidelines. Students who have trouble determining appropriate out of uniform attire may be asked not to participate in future events. Clothing that advertises drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or ideals not in line with the teachings of the Church are inappropriate. Clothing must fit appropriately, not too loose or too tight, and meet the length requirements in effect for the uniform policy (i.e. skirts or dresses should be no shorter than 3" above the knee, shorts must be walking length, jeans must still fit appropriately, etc.). Shorts or skirts may only be worn during shorts season or as designated by the administrator. Spaghetti straps, exposed underwear, belly buttons, midriffs, or cleavage are not acceptable at school.

### ***Suggestions-***

The following stores currently offer uniform departments, which carry clothing that fits the uniform policy for St. Mark School: Kohl's, J.C. Penney's, Lazarus, Sears, Meijer, and Target. Obviously, these stores also carry clothing that does not conform to our policy. These are suggested places to look for appropriate clothing that is sometimes less expensive than the standard suppliers such as Shaheen's and Schoolbelles. If there is doubt about the conformity of clothing to our policy, we suggest that you keep all tags intact and the receipts until the items are approved.

**Note-** This policy was formed through the cooperation of St. Mark School staff and parents. The administrator has the final word in areas needing clarification or interpretation.

