



UNIFORM POLICY

Students attending Canterbury are expected to adhere to the dress code as outlined in the following uniform policy. Please contact the administration if you have any questions regarding dress code.

All students will dress neatly, shoes tied, no holes/tears in clothes and clothing appropriately sized for the wearer. All male students are required to tuck in their shirts. In addition, all uniforms must be clean in appearance and the students must have groomed hair.

Cheerful, consistent compliance is expected; grumbling or challenging attitudes will be subject to disciplinary action.

Girls

Girls Regular Uniform– to be worn every day but Wednesday.

- White button-down, collared uniform shirt (short or long-sleeved). No polos. *Girls shirts with an even hem line do not need to be tucked in. Any shirt with tails or tunic style are required to be tucked in.*
- Khaki or black dress pants (without cargo pockets, no leggings or sweatpants). Any type of stretch pants or yoga pants are not permissible. No black or khaki colored denim pants.
- Khaki or black uniform shorts (without cargo pockets). No shorter than 2-2 ½ inches above the knee. Skirt or jumper (khaki, charcoal gray, black, or uniform plaid). No shorter than 2-2 ½ inches above the knee.
- Black blazer; red, black or gray/charcoal sweater (sweater vest or cardigan), or Canterbury sweatshirt. Students will be provided with one sweatshirt at registration. Additional sweatshirts may be purchased through our Merch Sale. No other “hoodie” sweatshirts/sweaters are permitted. Coats are allowed outdoors and do not have to comply with dress code standards.
- Cross-tie (black, red or uniform plaid). Rhetoric School girls only may wear a long tie but **ONLY** with a skirt. Rhetoric School girls may not wear a long tie with pants or shorts. Girls have the privilege of wearing a cross-tie each day.
- Socks, tights, leggings, or stockings (solid red, black, gray/charcoal, or white). Patterns of any kind are not permitted.

Girls Dress Uniform

Please note the Updated requirements for Dress Uniform as described below. These specifications only apply to Dress Uniform Days (Wednesdays and other special occasions). The standard uniform specifications apply to all other days. All skirts and jumpers must be no shorter than 2-2 ½ inches above the knee.

Kindergarten - Second Grade:

- White button down with peter-pan (curved) collar; long or short sleeved
- Drop waist Canterbury plaid jumper
- Canterbury plaid cross tie
- Solid black knee-socks, leggings or tights
- Black dress shoes (closed-toe); only ankle boots permitted
- Optional: red cardigan sweater, sweater vest, or cardigan -- no other sweatshirts permitted in class on Dress Uniform Days; coats are allowed outdoors and do not have to comply with dress code standards



Third - Fifth Grades:

- White button down with peter-pan (curved) collar; long or short sleeved
- V-top Canterbury plaid jumper
- Canterbury plaid cross tie
- Solid black knee-socks, leggings or tights
- Black dress shoes (closed-toe); only ankle boots permitted
- Optional: charcoal gray sweater, sweater vest, or cardigan -- no other sweatshirts permitted in class on Dress Uniform Days; coats are allowed outdoors and do not have to comply with dress code standards



Sixth - Eighth Grades:

- White button down with pointed tip collar; long or short sleeved
- Canterbury plaid pleated skirt; no shorter than 2-2 ½ inches above the knee
- Canterbury plaid cross tie
- Solid black knee-socks, leggings or tights
- Black dress shoes (closed-toe); only ankle boots permitted
- Optional: black sweater, sweater vest, or cardigan -- no other sweatshirts permitted in class on Dress Uniform Days; coats are allowed outdoors and do not have to comply with dress code standards

Ninth - Twelfth Grades:

- White button down with pointed tip collar; long or short sleeved
- Canterbury plaid pleated skirt; no shorter than 2-2 ½ inches above the knee
- Canterbury plaid tie (long tie/not cross tie)
- Solid black knee-socks, leggings or tights
- Black dress shoes (closed-toe); only ankle boots permitted
- Required: Black Blazer (no other sweatshirts permitted in class on Dress Uniform Days; coats are allowed outdoors and do not have to comply with dress code standards)

Boys

Boys Regular Uniform – to be worn every day but Wednesdays:

- White button-down, collared uniform shirt (short or long-sleeved) All shirts must be tucked in. No polos.
- Khaki or black uniform dress pants; no cargo pockets or sweatpants; no black or khaki colored denim pants
- Khaki or black dress shorts (no cargo pockets); no shorter than 2-2 ½ inches above the knee
- Black blazer; red, black or gray/charcoal sweater (sweater vest or cardigan), or Canterbury sweatshirt. Students will be provided with one sweatshirt at registration. Additional sweatshirts may be purchased through our Merch Sale. No other “hoodie” sweatshirts/sweaters are permitted. Coats are allowed outdoors and do not have to comply with dress code standards.
- Necktie or bow tie in uniform plaid, black or red. Boys have the privilege of wearing a black or brown belt and necktie each day.
- Black or brown belt (Consider investing in a reversible belt that can display either a black or brown side.)

Boys Dress Uniform

Please note the Updated requirements for Dress Uniform as described below. These specifications only apply to Dress Uniform Days (Wednesdays and other special occasions). The standard uniform specifications apply to all other days.

Kindergarten - Second Grade:

- White button down dress shirt; long or short sleeved
- Black dress pants (no shorts)
- Canterbury plaid tie (no bow ties on Dress Uniform Days)
- Black dress shoes (closed-toe) and black belt
- Optional: red sweater, sweater vest, or cardigan -- no other sweatshirts permitted in class on Dress Uniform Days; coats are allowed outdoors and do not have to comply with dress code standards

Third - Fifth Grades:

- White button down dress shirt; long or short sleeved
- Black dress pants (no shorts)
- Canterbury plaid tie (no bow ties on Dress Uniform Days)
- Black dress shoes (closed-toe) and black belt
- Optional: charcoal gray sweater, sweater vest, or cardigan -- no other sweatshirts permitted in class on Dress Uniform Days; coats are allowed outdoors and do not have to comply with dress code standards

Sixth - Eighth Grades:

- White button down dress shirt; long or short sleeved
- Khaki dress pants (no shorts)
- Canterbury plaid tie (no bow ties on Dress Uniform Days)
- Brown dress shoes (closed-toe) and brown belt
- Optional: black sweater, sweater vest, or cardigan -- no other sweatshirts permitted in class on Dress Uniform Days; coats are allowed outdoors and do not have to comply with dress code standards

Ninth - Twelfth Grades:

- White button down dress shirt; long or short sleeved
- Khaki dress pants (no shorts)
- Canterbury plaid tie (no bow ties on Dress Uniform Days)
- Brown dress shoes (closed- toe) and brown belt
- Required: Black Blazer (no other sweatshirts permitted in class on Dress Uniform Days; coats are allowed outdoors and do not have to comply with dress code standards)

General Uniform Information

Outerwear - For inclement weather, jackets and raincoats are permissible but may not be worn in the classroom.

Underclothes/shirts - All undershirts/bras under the white uniform shirts must be solid white or neutral toned.

Pants - Pants should be dress pants. Any type of athletic pants or yoga pants are **not** permissible. No cargo pants. No black or khaki colored denim pants. Any tights or leggings should complement the uniform and be matching, solid colors only - red, gray/charcoal or white. Patterns of any kind are not permitted.

Makeup - All makeup worn to school must be natural in appearance. No heavy eye make-up or bright colored lipstick.

Jewelry - All jewelry must be conservative, simple and tasteful in style. It may not detract from the uniform in any way.

Hair Accessories - All hair bows and headbands must compliment the uniform. They must be red, black, gray/charcoal or white. They may not detract from the uniform in any way.

Shoes - Colors only in brown, black, red, white, or gray/charcoal. Boots can be solid brown, black or gray and may not go above the knee. No military/combat style boots. Shoes may not have excess features or adornments and should not detract from the uniform. In warm weather, sandals are permissible. Flip flops are not permitted.

PE - Students grades 5 and up will receive gym shorts at registration for PE class. These students are required to wear these shorts or black gym pants with a Canterbury t-shirt for PE. Students are not allowed to crop-off their Canterbury t-shirts for PE.

Hats - Hats or head-scarves are not permitted. Exceptions include recess and hat passes.

Dress Down Days - On occasion, students will be given the privilege of a dress down day. Dress down days must include a Canterbury T-shirt. Bottoms may not have holes/tears. Full Dress down days may only be issued by the Head of School.

Plaid Guidelines - Canterbury students are to wear a specific plaid called "Plaid 63". Availability for our school plaid varies each year.

- **Cookie's Kids:** In the search bar, enter "plaid 63" and all of the items they sell in our plaid will pop up. When you find a skirt or jumper that you like, just choose the color Black/Red/Gold Plaid #63. <https://www.cookieskids.com/Search.aspx?k=plaid%2063>
- **Family School Uniforms:** Enter "plaid 63" in the search bar. www.familyschooluniforms.com -
- **Ideal Uniform:** You can find Canterbury in their "Shop Your School" section. Our zip code for the search is 28806. www.idealuniform.com
- **Shaheens:** Enter "plaid 63" in the search bar. www.shaheens.com

Violations - Violations of the dress code will be addressed according to the following procedures.

Tabulation begins at the beginning of school in August and again in January.

- **First and second offenses** will result in a written warning given to the student or parent.
- **The third violation** will result in a missed recess or a detention.
- **The fourth and all further violations as well as any egregious violations** will result in a phone call to the parent(s) to pick-up the student or bring the appropriate clothing to school for the student to be in compliance with the uniform policy.

PHILOSOPHY OF UNIFORMS

But to take a costume of which the only conceivable cause or advantage is that it is a sort of uniform, and then not wear it in the uniform way - this is to be neither a Bohemian nor a gentleman. It is a foolish affectation, I think, in an English officer of the Life Guards never to wear his uniform if he can help it. –G. K. Chesterton.

Rich, not gaudy; for the apparel oft proclaims the man. – Shakespeare

Essay, Devin O'Donnell, Headmaster, St. Abraham's Classical Christian Academy:

There is an odd and rather insidious idea floating around in culture today. In truth there are many such bad ideas, but one of them in particular concerns your children here at St. Abraham's. We live in a culture today that encourages and lauds the distinguishing of oneself from the crowd. The fallout of Sartre's Existentialism has drifted on the prevailing winds of secular humanism and has filtered down into popular consciousness. Each one of us has been repeatedly told to "be unique." You mustn't try to imitate anyone; you must always "be yourself" or "be an individual." Here I will not dwell further on the insipid and damaging consequences of such ideas as it relates to one's ontology, nor will I enter into an extensive Biblical critique. Suffice it to say, I wish only to point out the fact that wearing a uniform comprising ties for boys or jumpers for girls is very unpopular thing these days. It should not surprise you that ties for boys and jumpers for girls are, sadly enough, against the fashionable norm. What might come as a surprise, however, is that the practice of wearing uniforms is not against the fashionable norm. The truth is that we can never escape wearing uniforms, and in spite of all our attempts to be different from one another, we as humans cannot help from settling into pools of uniformity.

The punk-rocker from the 80s, with his spiked hair, fitted plaid pants, his leather jacket and creepers, has a uniform. The rockabilly, with his pompadour and cuffed jeans, has his. The Seattle-based or Portland-based look is seen in the skinny coffee-shop barista, with fitted clothes and a neatly visible tattoo or piercing. I could go on. And it is even true that certain brands of clothes—Gap, J Crew, Urban Outfitters, Sean Jean—cater to certain uniforms, even setting the trend in most cases.

The point, therefore, is not whether we wish to wear uniforms but what kind of uniforms to wear. This leads to a very important theme, one that our amnesiac culture has forgotten, that is, the relationship between form and content. The look of a thing has everything to do with what that thing means. Although we have been told never to judge a book by its cover, the reality is that we cannot help from judging things by their appearance because, as Flannery O'Connor says, "every time you open your eyes you are judging the world." When a man gets a tattoo on his face, it is not because he wants other people to look at him, completely impartial to his physical appearance, assuming that the content of his soul is one of beneficence and that the flames tattooed on his face have nothing whatever to do with his beliefs in the world. No. It is the opposite. People who decorate themselves in such ways do it precisely because they want you to judge them by their appearance. They wish to communicate some vision of beauty (or ugliness) in the form of the person. It is the same reason, as Chesterton points out, that a police officer wears his uniform; nobody wants to be rescued or pulled over by a guy in his pajamas; nobody would take him seriously.

And this leads us to our final point: taking education seriously. The question, again, is what one intends to communicate through the chosen form of dress. It is our belief here that children should not determine this for themselves. We do not let children dress however they wish for the same reason we do not let children speak whatever language they invent; we impose a dress code for the same reason we impose speaking English. God cares about the form as well as the content; and so should we. One might ask, "What hath Khakis, sweater vests, and ties to do with Athens?" The answer is much. Khakis, sweater vests, and ties communicate a seriousness about education. As parents we ought to be serious about the education of our children; we ought to approach the entire experience of school with a serious joy and a happy gravitas. This includes even the clothes we wear.