

Dress Code/Uniform Policy (Grades Kindergarten - Grade 12)

As a private Catholic school, St. Mary's Springs Academy reserves the right to determine appropriate attire and insists upon a norm of proper appearance for its students, faculty and staff. SMSA promotes respect for and the dignity of each individual person, and believes that values are reflected in one's words and behaviors, including grooming and clothing. The school expects students to represent themselves well at school, on field trips and at competitions and other school functions through appropriate attire and proper hygiene. Cleanliness, neatness, safety and modesty are key in determining proper grooming and attire.

Students are expected to dress appropriately for a Catholic school environment. Any clothing that interferes with or disrupts the educational environment is unacceptable. Clothing should fit properly, be neat, clean and conform to standards of safety, good taste and decency.

Parents/guardians have the responsibility of ensuring that their student(s) reports to school appropriately dressed, clean and neat in appearance.

To review approved school uniform selections, go to the Lands' End website by visiting the SMSA web site home page (www.smsacademy.org), click the Family link and select Uniforms. There is a direct link to the uniform store at Lands' End on that page. Once on the Lands' End page, create an account for your student(s) to help with the ordering process. Any item available to order on the SMSA dedicated Lands' End website is dress code approved. Extended sizing options are available.

General Dress guidelines (P3 & 4K)

Uniforms are optional for P3 and K4 students.

General Dress guidelines (Kindergarten – Grade 8)

The following are guiding principles regarding appropriate dress that extend beyond the opening policy message previously stated:

- Students are expected to be in "dress code" from the time they enter the building until the time they depart at the end of the day, as well as on any school sanctioned off-campus activity. This includes breaks, lunch, all-school masses, and field trips.
- Lands' End logo polos and oxfords are acceptable shirts without the fleece, sweater, vest or cardigan. Oxford shirts must be tucked in at all times. Boy cut oxfords worn by girls, must be tucked in. Polos, oxfords, sweaters, fleece (must be buttoned or zipped to collar bone). Oxford button down shirts in blue, French blue, lake blue stripe and white with SMSA logo are acceptable.
- Any visible undershirts must be solid and in uniform colors (i.e. white, blue, navy blue, French blue, gray, cobalt or black) without any writing or graphics. (Revised 9/5/17)
- Long sleeved white shirts may be worn underneath long sleeved polos, but not underneath short sleeved polos
- Shirts or blouses that expose midriffs, or have low-cut necklines that expose cleavage are not allowed.
- Shorts and capris will be allowed April 1 to October 31.

- Chino-style and/or dress pants and/or dress shorts in approved colors (navy, khaki or black).
- Skirts, dresses, or shorts that fit properly and are not too loose or too tight. Skirts/shorts must be mid-thigh or fingertip length with arms at side.
- Jumpers (K5-5) and polo dresses (K5-5) in classic navy, khaki and classic navy plaid with SMSA logo are required and available on the Lands' End website.
- Hosiery for girls is recommended, but optional under a skirt. Tights, nylons, and ankle length leggings in black, navy, or nude are acceptable.
- Leggings bought from the SMSA Lands End website page are acceptable without being covered in grades K-5.
- Knee-high socks are acceptable as long as they are in uniform colors. (Revised 9/5/17)
- Boys and girls may wear a solid colored black, brown, or navy belt if belt loops on pants or shorts are provided.
- Low-cut pants or oversized pants that droop or sag, so as to expose underwear, are not allowed.
- Students will be required to dress in uniform attire on competition and performance days. The SMSA Administration Team will notify students of spirit days or jeans days in advance.
- All shoes must go around the heel to prevent the shoe from slipping off (Grade K-5). Birkenstock-type sandals are allowed Grades 6-8.
- Clothing or accessories intended for outdoor use (e.g. hats, caps, bandannas, sunglasses, coats, etc.) may not be worn indoors.
- Accessory scarves for boys or girls are not allowed.
- Clothing that is torn, has holes or is designed to look frayed, or is unkempt or disheveled is not allowed.
- Clothing or accessories with language or images that are vulgar, discriminatory, defamatory or obscene is not allowed; clothing or accessories that promote illegal or violent behavior, including but not limited to, the use of weapons, drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol or tobacco, is also not allowed.
- Pajamas are not allowed nor are sport/sweat/running/wind pants or shorts (except on designated days).
- Visible tattoos and body piercings (except ears) are not allowed. Ear gauges are not allowed.
- Chains/spiked accessories are not allowed.
- From Hopper's: These pieces will be embroidered with the S dot logo on the chest.
 - Polo's in royal blue and black.
 - A black soft style crewneck sweatshirt in sizes youth small to adult 4x.
 - A royal blue or black polyester 1/4 zip in sizes youth small to mens 4x.

Clothing for Outdoors

During the school year months all students are expected to wear proper clothing (boots, scarves, hats, and mittens or gloves) in the interest of good health and safety. The students must wear snow pants/suits, boots, hats, and mittens/gloves in order to play in the snow. The school takes the position that what the student is allowed to wear to school by parent(s)/guardian(s) is acceptable for that child to wear outdoors for recesses. If children wear boots, hiking boots, tennis shoes, etc. for outdoors, please see that they bring shoes to change into for inside the building.

All System Mass attire/Special Event Attire (Grades 6-8)

- Lands' End Oxford button down shirt only with SMSA logo in white, French blue, and Lands' End Lake blue and white striped.
- Boys must wear an approved SMSA Lands' End striped neck tie or SMSA approved bow tie.
- Navy Lands' End blazer with SMSA logo is optional.
- Only long slacks or Lands' End skirts may be worn.
- Shorts may NOT be worn on Mass/Special Event Days.
- Students are expected to wear Mass Day attire for school photographs.

** Grades P3-5 are not required to wear Mass Day attire for prayer services or Mass, but must dress in school uniform daily attire. (Revised 8/4/21)*

Out of Uniform Corrective Procedures

1. Students who are not following the dress/uniform code will be expected to correct the situation if possible and remain in dress code the remainder of the day.
2. If the student is unable to comply, he/she will be provided proper uniform items on loan if possible to finish out the school day. An email will be sent home detailing the dress code issue from the homeroom teacher. Students who have been loaned clothing are expected to launder and return to the office the next day. Future occurrences may result in a parent discussion, meeting or future disciplinary action.

HIGH SCHOOL: General Standards Regarding Student Attire

- Modesty and cleanliness are the Christian values that underlie the SMSA dress/uniform code.
- In all cases, the school administration reserves the right to interpret, determine, and curtail non-dress code outfits, accessories and/or grooming.
- Each day of school, students are expected to comply with the approved school dress/uniform code between school hours: 8:00 am-3:15 pm, unless special permission to be out-of dress-code options have been approved by administration.
- Students may be given approval to wear alternate attire/ spirit wear on designated days ONLY. Those days shall be determined by administration and communicated in advance of the applicable dates.
- All school day attire shall be in good condition, neat and clean. Clothing that is soiled, torn, frayed, faded, threadworn, marked/drawn upon, pinned, stapled, taped, not properly hemmed, etc...do not conform to dress/uniform code standards. Clothing may not be altered in any way. This includes adding an SMSA logo to non-SMSA approved clothing.
- It is never appropriate (in any weather or season) for students inside of the school building during classes, study halls or lunch to be dressed in outerwear (headware, jackets, vests, gloves, etc...).
- Students are expected to wear "Mass Day Attire" for all system liturgies, designated special events, and for official school pictures/ID photographs.
- While engaged with supporting athletic/co-curricular school events - on campus or away from campus - students are not expected to be in their school uniform - however, they are expected to dress in a manner that reflects integrity, the value of modesty and cleanliness, and our

Catholic school mission and identity. Student attire should always demonstrate pride in school, respect for oneself, and all people.

Helpful Rule to Remember: If attire is school-approved, neat, modest, safe, and shows respect for yourself, others and our school community, it is probably compliant with the dress code. If it looks like athletic wear, lounge wear, outerwear, or is overly casual, revealing or provocative, it is probably not compliant with the SMSA uniform/dress code.

Designated Out of Uniform Days (Fundraiser Jeans Days/Spirit Days)

To promote school spirit and unity, there will be designated days when the school uniform will not be required. Guidelines will be determined by the administration and communicated to the students prior to the day. The rest of the dress code still applies as listed in the handbook. Students who do not plan to participate in the alternative attire days that have been designated are expected to abide by the normal school dress/uniform code. Below are examples of what may be acceptable on alternative attire days as designated:

- School sanctioned spirit wear, sweatshirts and t-shirts or thematic attire (NFL, NBA, MLB, College, Holidays...)
- Denim (jeans) that are clean and with no markings, holes/tears.
- Items specific to the theme of the day (i.e. hats, pajamas, sweatpants, costumes, specific colors).
- Students will be allowed a dress code 'pass' on their birthday and will not need to wear school uniforms. Students will get their pass from the North Hall office before school starts on their birthday. Students who have a birthday during the summer months will be allowed to be out of school uniform one time during the school year on a day of their choosing.
- Friday may occasionally be designated as "Spirit Day" on campus. On these designated days, school uniform pants/shorts/skirts must be worn and athletic pants/shorts/skirts are not allowed. If the student's attire doesn't have the SMSA approved logo on it, it is not in compliance.

Corrective Procedures for Non-Compliance with SMSA Dress/ Uniform Code

1. Students who are out of uniform will be expected to correct the situation immediately, and whenever possible, remain in approved school uniform the remainder of the day. Whenever this is possible, no further consequences shall be enforced.
2. Any member of SMSA faculty/staff who notices a student not in uniform is expected to bring the infraction to the attention of the student and verify the student has made the correction immediately.
3. If the student is immediately unable, or chooses not to comply with the request to change attire, he/she will be referred to the North Hall office. Whenever possible, the North Hall office staff may then provide proper uniform items on loan so that the student is able to finish the school day dressed appropriately. An email will be sent home from the Assistant Principal detailing the dress code issue. Students who have been loaned clothing are expected to launder and return it to the North Hall office on the **next school day**.
4. **Repeated infractions** of the dress/uniform code may result in additional progressive consequences, including but not limited to:
 - a. School confiscation of student mobile phone/personal communication device privileges
 - b. School confiscation of the student's noncompliant attire

- c. Detention
5. Habitual infractions of the dress/uniform code (5-9 infractions) may result in additional progressive consequences, including but not limited to:
 - a. School confiscation of student mobile phone/personal communication device privileges for one week
 - b. School confiscation of the student's noncompliant attire for one week
 - c. Continued disregard for the SMSA dress/uniform code may result in required parent/guardian meeting with administration, placement of a student on behavioral probation.
6. Chronic infractions of the dress/uniform code (10 or more infractions) may result in additional progressive consequences, including but not limited to:
 - a. School confiscation of student mobile phone/personal communication device privileges for up to one semester
 - b. School confiscation of the student's noncompliant attire for up to one semester
 - c. Continued disregard for the SMSA dress/uniform code may result in required parent/guardian meeting with administration, placement of a student on suspension.

APPROVED High School DRESS/UNIFORM CODE for the Academic Day (8am-3:15pm)

TOPS: Shirts, Sweaters, Fleece, Pullovers and Sweatshirts

- SMSA logo polo shirts in approved colors (navy, royal blue, or black)
- SMSA logo Oxford shirts in approved colors - and must be worn tucked-in if these are 'men's cut'
- Approved SMSA logo button-down cardigan, pullover crewneck sweaters, v-neck sweaters, fleece pullovers, zip vests, and crewneck sweatshirts, Hoppers SMSA logo fullzip fleece.

BOTTOMS: Pants, Shorts, Skirts

- Chino-style and/or dress pants and/or dress shorts in approved colors (navy, khaki or black)
- Pants and shorts that fit properly and are not too loose or too tight
- Shorts that reach at least mid-thigh or fingertip length

Skirts (Female students only)

- SMSA approved uniform skirt ONLY (navy, khaki or black; Lands' End plaid)
- Skirts must reach a length that is at least mid-thigh or fingertip length

Footwear

- Shoes or boots with a closed toe and heel
- Birkenstock-type sandals (see next page for prohibited footwear)
- Socks, tights, or stockings

Hair and Accessories (Jewelry)

- Hair must be kept clean, neat and in a natural color
- Jewelry that is modest and appropriate to school mission

Mass Attire and Special Event Days

- SMSA logo Lands' End Oxford button-down shirt in approved colors (young men and young women). Shirts that are 'men's cut' must be worn tucked-in.
- SMSA approved uniform chino-style pants (navy, khaki or black) or SMSA uniform skirt option (for female students only). NOTE: Shorts are not appropriate/approved Mass or Special event attire.
- SMSA Lands' End striped tie or bow tie (for young men)
- (Optional) SMSA Land's End navy colored blazer

PROHIBITED High School DRESS/ UNIFORM CODE for the Academic Day (8am - 3:15pm)

TOPS: Shirts, Sweaters, Fleece, Pullovers and Sweatshirts

- Graphic t-shirts, tops, sweaters, fleece, vests or sweatshirts - includes but is not limited to themed attire promoting entertainment, colleges, businesses, politics, or religion
- Hoodies of any style or fabric - including SMSA spiritwear hoodies
- Clothing altered with holes, tears, frayed edges, stains, buttons or visible customized writing

BOTTOMS: Pants, Shorts, Skirts

- Jeans or denim clothing of any color
- Cargo style full-length pants or shorts
- Fatigue style full-length pants or shorts (i.e. fashion or military style)
- Activewear and athletic style full-length pants, shorts, sweatpants (includes joggers, yoga pants, or similar activewear)
- Pajamas, lounge pants or lounge shorts
- Leggings, jeggings, etc. worn as pants (without skirts over the top)
- Skinny pants that are form-fitting/skin-tight
- Skirts that are immodest or do not comply with the length standard (at least mid-thigh or fingertip length).
- Full-length pants, or shorts, or skirts with holes, tears, frayed edges, stains, or with visible writing

Outerwear

- Hats, caps, bandanas, and headwear
- Jackets, coats, gloves, scarves, and mittens
- Non-SMSA fleece or vests

Footwear

- Bedroom slippers of any style
- Non-Birkenstock-type sandals, including but not limited to: flip-flops, Crocs, slides or shower sandals
- Very high platform style shoes or boots

Accessories

- Visible tattoos
- Body piercings other than earrings
- Ear gauges
- Chains or spiked jewelry
- Jewelry that may be inconsistent with the school's Catholic identity and mission
- Decorative scarves and headbands of any kind

Hair

- Hair colors that are not natural
- Hairstyles that are distracting or not neat