

DRESS CODE AND GROOMING GUIDELINES updated 6/5/2017

St. Mary's School believes that performance in school is improved by setting standards of dress that reflect pride in one's self and in our school. St. Mary's students are required to abide by the following dress code for the following reasons:

1. Appropriate dress for school identifies one with and shows pride in our school.
2. A student's economic status should not be distinguishable based on attire; school dress should be more affordable.
3. School dress must promote an environment conducive to study and appropriate behavior.

Parents and guardians must strive to understand and support our dress code and grooming guidelines. If there is a family reason for a student to be out of uniform, the parent or guardian must call the school office prior to the beginning of classes for the day. If no call is received, a detention will be given in grades 6-12.

Uniform tops

1. Polo style with either long or short sleeve, properly buttoned with a collar.
 - a. **K-5** polo shirts are true red or light blue.
 - b. **6-8** polo shirts are true red or light blue with St. Mary's logo.
 - c. **9-12** polo shirts are navy, black, white or gray, with St. Mary's logo.
2. Polo shirt must be appropriate length so they are tucked in at all times.
3. Only plain white non-printed t-shirts may be worn under polo shirts.

Cool weather wear

1. Cool weather wear may be worn from November 1 through March 19.
 - a. **K-8** Red crewneck sweatshirt or red fleece jacket with St. Mary's logo ordered through www.walloffame247.com worn over a red polo.
 - b. **9-12** Black V-neck sweater/vest or black 1/4-zip pullover with St. Mary's logo purchased from Rust's Western Shed (<http://rustswesternshed.com/stmarys/>) worn over white polo, plain white t-shirt or white collared dress shirt.
2. If cooler days occur outside the November 1 – March 19 dates, students may wear long sleeve polo shirts over a plain white non-printed t-shirt, tucked in.

Uniform bottoms

1. Students must wear solid dress style pants/shorts, free of decoration or embroidery.
2. Pants/shorts must be of appropriate size, worn at the waist, hemmed, with no rips/tears.
 - a. **K-8** Solid black or navy pants/shorts (twill or corduroy) but no knit pants, leggings, skinny jeans or sweat style pants.
 - b. **9-12** Solid black, navy or tan khaki pants/shorts (twill or corduroy) no knit pants, leggings, skinny jeans, sweat style pants or cargo style pants/shorts.
3. Uniform walking shorts may be worn from the beginning of the school year until November 1 and then again beginning March 20 to the end of the school year. Girls may also wear capris during the short season.
4. Length of shorts/skirts must be mid-thigh or longer in length, measured when the longest finger of the hand touches thigh when in a standing position with arms and hands extended by the side.
5. All **6-12 students** must wear belt with pants, shorts every day.
6. **K-8** (girls only) may wear uniform navy jumper or uniform navy skirt during short season.

Shoes

1. **K-5** all shoes must have backs, worn with socks and laces tied.
2. **6-12** shoes in good repair with laces tied. Nov. 1- March 19, socks must be worn with shoes.

Miscellaneous dress code and grooming guidelines:

1. Cut, ripped or revealing clothing is never permitted.
2. Apparel depicting or promoting the use of alcohol, tobacco or that demeans another person is not allowed.
3. Clothing with bare-midriff, sleeveless, bare-shoulders, spaghetti straps, halter, or tank styles are never permitted.
4. Dresses and skirts must be mid-thigh or longer in length, measured when the longest finger of the hand touches thigh when in a standing position with arms and hands extended by the side. Tights or nylon hose must be worn with dresses/skirts between the dates of November 1 - March 19.

5. Hats, caps, bandannas, coats, jackets or hooded sweatshirts are not permitted during the school day.
6. All hairstyles must have a conventional color and cut and not interfere with the education process.
 - a. Boys are to be clean-shaven (no facial hair) with hair trimmed above the eyebrow, around the ears and above the collar.
 - b. Hairpieces, weaves and extensions for men and women must be natural color only.
7. Unacceptable body piercing includes but may not be limited to, eyebrows, lips, tongue, and nose.
8. Writing on hands, arms, legs, etc. is not allowed.
9. Tattoos are discouraged and must not be visible; this applies to all school activities.
10. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum and the appropriateness shall be at the discretion of administration. Excessive jewelry may be considered a safety hazard or distraction and students will be asked to remove it.

The uniform is worn throughout the year unless an exception is made on specific occasions.

Out of Uniform Days:

Certain days will be designated as 'Out of Uniform' Day by administration. School uniform is always acceptable. The following guidelines are for Out of Uniform days:

1. Students who join in the spirit of an 'out of uniform' day may be assessed \$.50 (K-5) or \$1.00 (6-12) for designated fund raising events.
2. Planning for 'out of uniform' day will be in advance and notified via social media, school website and/or school calendar. There will be a limited number of 'out of uniform' days during the academic year.
3. No holes, rips or tears on any 'Out of Uniform' day clothing.

Out of uniform tops

1. St. Mary's t-shirt, polo shirt, pullover or crew neck sweatshirt of any color with St. Mary's logo or emblem may be worn. No hooded sweatshirts.
2. St. Mary's black, white, or gray/silver shirts and St. Mary's team designed shirts may be worn during 'out of uniform' days.
3. Other shirts and t-shirts are permitted however, sleeveless, bare-midriff, bare-shoulders, spaghetti straps, halter, or tank style tops are not allowed.
4. Apparel depicting or promoting the use of alcohol, tobacco or that demeans another person is not allowed.
5. Shirts do not have to be tucked in, but must be long enough to not show skin.

Out of uniform bottoms

1. Jeans or jean shorts or skirts (during shorts season in appropriate length) may be worn and will be worn at the waist.
2. Black, grey or white mesh shorts will be allowed during shorts season, must have minimum 7-inch inseam. No other accent colors besides black, gray or white.
3. Athletic or wind pants in black, grey or white may be worn, however cotton sweatpants are not permitted.

Dress-up days:

There will be designated dress-up days during the school year, usually chosen in conjunction with a special event or activity (example-school pictures). School uniform is always acceptable. Students choosing to dress-up must follow these guidelines:

Girls Dress-up day guidelines:

1. Blouse or dress shirt. No t-shirt, sleeveless, bare-midriff, bare-shoulders, spaghetti straps, halter, or tank style tops are allowed.
2. No sheer, clingy or denim fabrics allowed on dress-up days.
3. Dress, skirt or shorts (during shorts season), mid-thigh or longer in length, when the longest finger of the hand touches thigh when in a standing position with arms and hands extended by the side.
4. Dress pants/slacks (with belt, if loops)
5. Dress shoes (no tennis shoes for those choosing dress-up day).

Boys Dress-up day guidelines:

1. Collared dress shirt, tucked in.

2. Belt with dress pants/slacks.
3. Dress shoes (no tennis shoes for those choosing dress-up day).

9-12 Athletic Game Day expectations:

Students representing our school in athletics, activities or school sponsored extra-curricular activities may have 'team attire' approved by administration and purchased by team members. Our St. Mary's school colors are allowed; black, white or gray. Team attire will be dress code compliant including; 1/4 zip pullover, short or long sleeve polo or full zip athletic jacket. Crew or hooded sweatshirts, t-shirts, cotton sweatpants or yoga style pant will not be approved. School uniform is always acceptable.

1. Administration must provide approval before any clothing is purchased for school teams, organizations or St. Mary's school activities.
2. On Game Days, all team members must dress as a team or wear school uniform.
3. Home Game Days, (coach permitting) athletes may dress-up for home games, following all 'dress-up day' guidelines.
4. Away Games (coach permitting) all team members may wear dress code compliant team tops over white polo (if ¼ zip or jacket) and black/khaki or navy pants or athletic pant if team purchased.
5. SLHS/SMHS shared athletic programs (football, swimming, soccer, etc.) may be allowed to wear SLHS team jersey tucked into black/khaki or navy pants or shorts with a belt. If an SLHS team jacket is worn, athlete will wear a white polo tucked into black/khaki or navy pants or shorts with a belt. SLHS game day attire must be approved by St. Mary's administration prior to first scheduled event. Athletes are reminded to check with administration before the first event.

9-12 Homecoming Spirit Days:

These days are restricted to 9-12 students on Homecoming week. On these days out of the ordinary clothing options will be communicated to the St. Mary's community and allowed for grades 9-12 during school hours. School uniform is always acceptable.

Dress code violation:

1. The acceptability of a student's appearance is reserved to the judgment of the faculty/staff and administration.
2. Students found to be in violation of the dress code will be issued a 'lunch study table' or an after-school detention to be served the day of the violation.
3. Students will have someone bring them the needed clothing from home, will borrow suitable clothing from the 'uniform closet' or may be issued an 'out of uniform' pass for the day.
4. Missed class time will be made up during 'lunch study table' or after school detention on the day of the violation.
5. Reoccurring violations of dress code will result in a meeting between parents and administration.

Storm Lake St. Mary's Uniform dress code Frequently Asked Questions updated 6/5/17

Why a dress code? Our school dress code and faith-based education sets our school apart from a public education. St. Mary's School believes that performance in school is improved by setting standards of dress that reflect pride in one's self and in our school.

Why were changes made?

Simplifying school uniform choices saves families money, saves time and allows our students and administrators to focus on our academics.

What has been changed?

K-5 (no changes)

6-8 Red fleece and red crew sweatshirts with SM logo are allowed November 1 until March 19.

9-12 Students have additional options of white or gray polo with SM logo. Approved black V-neck sweater or vest and approved black quarter-zip pullover to be worn with white dress shirt/polo or plain white t-shirt underneath are acceptable from November 1 and worn through March 19. Everyday St. Mary's attire consists of: polo shirt, pants, belt, socks, and shoes.

How will we show our school spirit?

Every day our 6-12 student will be proudly wearing our school logo and being 'in uniform' demonstrates pride in our school. Our community will have the opportunity to see our respectful, neatly groomed St. Mary's students in the newspaper and on social media, on fieldtrips and in the community. Panther Spirit-wear can be purchased through our Athletic Boosters by students, parents and supporters and worn after school hours and to athletic events.

What are 'Occasional Out of Uniform Days'?

Days when students are allowed to dress up or wear jeans (without rips or tears), athletic pants, St. Mary's team shirts, shirts or t-shirts as long as they are long enough not to show skin or promote inappropriate subjects. The 'out of uniform day' will be announced prior to the event and some are specified on the school calendar.

Will students have to pay for 'Out of Uniform Days'?

Occasionally students may be assessed \$.50 (K-5) or \$1.00 (6-12) for a designated student council fundraiser, these will be announced in advance to allow parents and students to plan ahead.

Some classrooms are chilly, what can students wear to stay warm?

Cool weather wear begins on November 1 and ends March 19

K-8 between these dates, students may wear red crewneck or red fleece with SM logo with red polo underneath.

9-12 between these dates, students may wear black V-neck sweater/vest or black quarter-zip pullover with SM logo, with a white polo or white dress shirt underneath. Students may also wear a long sleeve SM polo with a white undershirt.

Can I purchase school appropriate attire in Storm Lake?

Yes, we have a special partnership with Rust's Western Shed (506 Lake Ave <http://rustswesternshed.com/stmarys/> for approved polo shirts, V-neck sweaters, quarter-zip pullovers, pants and shorts for **6-12**. Polos with SM logos are available at Silk Screen Ink, or ordered any time through www.walloffame247.com **K-5** polos/pants/shorts can be ordered through school uniform shop at www.walmart.com or purchased at your favorite store. We also have a uniform closet has variety of clean, gently used school appropriate clothing available to any student.

What is the rule for shorts?

Warm weather wear begins at the start of school through November 1 and begins again March 20.

Shorts must be solid Black/navy (K-8) or solid black/navy/khaki (9-12). Shorts must be mid-thigh or longer in length worn with a belt for 6-12. Length of shorts/skirts must be mid-thigh or longer in length measured when the longest finger of the hand touches the thigh when in a standing position with arms/hands extended by the side. Cargo style shorts are not allowed.

Can K-8 girls wear jumpers or skirts?

Yes, K-8 girls may wear uniform navy jumpers or skirts.

Will students be able to wear embellishment on pants, shorts or shirts?

No, all attire should be solid color only. Students cannot wear yoga style pants, skinny jeans, cotton sweat pants, leggings, cargo shorts, or knit pants. Polo shirts must be solid colors only and 6-12 polo shirts must include SM logo.

Are there other guidelines for student attire?

Yes, our student handbook includes additional details regarding acceptable attire for St. Mary's students. The posters and this information are intended as a quick reference for parents, students and teachers.