

# Appearance and Student Uniform Requirements

## INTRODUCTION

Student dress, grooming, and personal cleanliness impact the image of Our Lady of Mercy School. It is a part of school tradition to wear uniforms to avoid class distinction and over-interest in fads. Besides representing school families, the clean, up-to-code uniform draws students' attention to community responsibility. A neat, clean, and tasteful appearance with well-groomed hair creates an atmosphere of confidence, respect, and learning. Moreover, it is an opportunity to uphold, reflect, and respect the dignity of the human person. In adhering to the Our Lady of Mercy School uniform and dress code, students practice the virtues of humility, modesty, obedience, and respect.

It is the joint responsibility of parents and students to see that the uniform and dress code of the school is carried out daily; it is the responsibility of the teacher and staff to monitor and report non-compliance. Every student is expected to be in proper uniform every school day unless otherwise authorized. The uniform should be neat, clean, and in good repair. Violations of any uniform, dress code, and appearance requirements are subject to school disciplinary sanctions.

The school cannot anticipate every fashion trend that may develop and therefore reserves the right to make judgments regarding the application of these general guidelines to specific items at any time.

The approved uniform must be worn every day. Substitutions are not allowed. Uniforms are to be kept clean and pressed. Preschool children need not wear uniforms. Students must have a note from a parent if out of uniform unless it is a "Free Dress" day. Please adhere to these uniform regulations. If you enroll your child at OLM School, you agree to comply with this uniform dress code.

## **UNIFORM DRESS CODE FOR GRADES K THROUGH 8**

### **Boys**

- Shirts: Light blue, long or short sleeve, front button, dress or knit shirt with collar, or light blue turtleneck shirts. Mock turtlenecks are not allowed. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- Pants: Navy blue cords. Relaxed fit (husky) pants are allowed. The baggy look is not allowed. Cargo pants are not allowed. Pants must be worn at the waist. Faded or torn pants are not allowed. Belts must be worn in grades 4 through 8.

### **THE NAVY BLUE CORDS MUST BE WORN ON ALL MASS DAYS.**

- Walking Shorts From Dennis Uniform Company only. Shorts may be worn during May, August and September only.

Jewelry Only small religious medal or cross on small metal chain may be worn. A watch may be worn. No bracelets, rings, or pierced earrings are allowed.

No colored undershirts may be worn. Tattoos are not allowed.

## Girls

Blouses Plain, white or navy blue long or short sleeve, front button, dress or knit blouse with collar, or white long sleeve turtleneck shirts instead of white blouse. Mock turtlenecks are not allowed. Blouses must be tucked in at all times.

Dress Grades K through 4-Lloyd plaid jumper with bib.  
Grades 5 through 8-Lloyd plaid skirts.  
The length of the jumper/skirt should be no shorter than the top of kneecap. Shorts worn under the skirt are not to hang below the skirt, and must be dark blue in color.

### **THE LLOYD PLAID JUMPER/SKIRT MUST BE WORN ON ALL MASS DAYS.**

Walking Shorts From Dennis Uniform Company only. Shorts may be worn during May, August and September only.

Pants From Dennis Uniform Company only. Pants may be worn during December, January and February only.

Jewelry Only small religious medal or cross on small chain may be worn. A watch may be worn. Only small pierced earrings are acceptable, one per ear lobe.

Bows Only a **small** blue, white, or red bow may be worn in the hair.

**No makeup or nail polish may be worn. Tattoos are not allowed.**

## All Students

**Socks** White, navy blue, or black, ankle, mid-calf or knee socks without decoration or logo. Girls may wear tights of the same color without decoration. Low cut sports socks are not allowed. **All socks must be above the ankle. If wearing high top shoes, socks must be seen above the shoe.**

Belts Black, brown or navy blue, plain leather or webbed.

Shoes Black, brown, navy blue, light blue, gray or white. Sandals are not allowed. Boots are not allowed. **Skate shoes (shoes with rollers) are not allowed.** Shoes must be a **solid color**(black, brown, navy blue, light blue, royal blue, gray or white) without embellishments, designs, characters, or lights. All shoes are subject to the discretion of the principal.

Shoelaces Black, brown, navy blue or white only.

Over wear Only the navy blue cardigan sweater, navy blue vest sweater or **OLM School emblem sweatshirt** may be worn.

Sweatshirts	Only the <b>OLM</b> School emblem sweatshirt may be worn.
Hats	<b>No</b> hats may be worn at school.
Jackets	Jackets may be worn only outside of the classroom.
Hair	<b>No</b> artificial hair color is allowed. Hairstyles should not be distracting to other students or teachers, nor should the length impair vision. Boy's hair length should be cut over the ears, be at least ½ inch above the eyebrows, and not touch the collar of the shirt. Girl's hair must not hang or fall in front of the eyes. No spiked or Mohawk hairstyles allowed.
Sunglasses	No sunglasses unless prescription.

\*\*Only required on Mass days or formal dress days specified by the principal/teacher.

P.E. (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>)                      Grades 5 through 8      Navy blue shorts( no shorter than 3" above the knee) and OLM tee shirt.

Athletic shoes only (no slip-ons or dress shoes)

Plain white, black, or navy socks only – must be visible above the shoe

Optional PE Items: Blue school sweatpants

school sweatshirt (any color)

P.E.: (K – 4<sup>th</sup>)                      Students wear regular school uniform  
Girls must wear shorts underneath skirts  
Must wear athletic shoes with laces or Velcro

GENERAL DRESS CODE and UNIFORM REGULATIONS

- All clothing should be marked clearly with student first and last name
- Uniform items need to be size-appropriate and may not be modified in any way (e.g., purchasing smaller sizes than are appropriate or hemming skirts, etc.).
- No distracting shoes such as with lights, buzzers, or skating, etc.
- Sandals and open-toed shoes are never allowed.
- Only school uniform sweatshirts may be worn.
- Outer coats may be worn over the uniform while outside, but not in the classroom (sweaters only).
- No other clothing is allowed including Scout uniforms, or high school/college sweatshirts.
- Students must call home for a change of clothes if out of uniform.
- If circumstances prevent a student from coming to school in uniform, a note must be sent to the teacher. The substitute uniform should be as similar to the uniform as possible.
- NO HATS
- NO TATTOOS, permanent or washable

- No fake nails, nail polish, or French manicures.
- A clean, well-groomed appearance is required for students. Students sent to school without attention to cleanliness, uniform, or neatness may be sent home to be properly prepared for school.
- Make-up, lipstick, or colored lip gloss are not permitted for the school day.
- Clear lip balm only is permitted.
- Hairstyles are to be simple, clean, and neat. Hair must be its natural color with no highlights, no fads, distinct layers, or distracting hairstyles.
- Boys' hair must be out of the eyes, above the ears, and off the collar.
- Boys must be clean shaven (when applicable).
- The only acceptable forms of jewelry that may be worn at any time include a wristwatch (for boys or girls), one pair of matching stud earrings for girls only (to be worn one in each earlobe only), a holy medal, cross, or crucifix on a chain, a scapular that is worn inside the shirt or blouse (for boys or girls), or a medical alert necklace and/or bracelet when necessary (no other bracelets may be worn).

#### SPIRIT DAY DRESS CODE

School sweatshirts, cardigans, and sweaters can be worn with any school t-shirt. Pants and shorts, for both girls and boys, can be navy blue, tan, beige, or khaki. Denim pants and shorts are acceptable. School logo shorts and sweatpants are also acceptable. In addition, girls can also wear school skirts or skorts or khaki skirts or skorts. Capri pants may be worn. Pants that are skinny may not be worn. Shoes that are non-distracting (e.g., no predominately neon or bright colored sneakers or shoelaces can be worn). Only black, navy, or white socks may worn – no other colors are acceptable.

#### FREE DRESS

Please use discretion and check what your child selects to wear for free dress days. Free dress does not mean that we forget we attend OLM School. At all times we should look respectable and model Catholic values.

- Modesty and simplicity are guiding principles for free dress.
- No extreme fads
- Jeans in good repair (with no holes, intentional or otherwise) will be acceptable for casual "free dress" (not on "dress up" days or addressing the student body at Mass).
- Pants of any kind must fit appropriately (i.e. not skin tight, no spandex and no skinny jeans).
- Pants should be worn at the waist (no sagging).
- Halters, tank tops, or spaghetti straps are not allowed.
- No midriff shirts, loose baggy trousers, cutoffs, see-through shirts, or bike shorts are allowed.
- Objectionable clothing displaying images (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, drugs, controversial rock groups, or themes) are not allowed.
- Flat soled shoes only; shoes must have a closed toe. NO BOOTS.

- Sandals are not allowed.
- Socks must be worn at all times.
- Shorts or skirts may not be more than 4" above the knee.
- If there is doubt as to what is appropriate, a plain T-shirt (w/ sleeves) and jeans in good repair should be acceptable.
- No hats unless it's a specific dress-up day. On those special hat days a cap must be worn with the bill front ways.