

FAMILIES OF FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

DRESS CODE HANDBOOK

24466 W. EAMES STREET, CHANNAHON, IL 60410 815.521.1381 | www.fofca.com

WHY A UNIFORM & DRESS CODE?

We understand that the way we are dressed is a form of communication about ourselves, and we also understand that there is no such thing as a "Christian" dress code. There is no spirituality attached to whether or not you have a tie on or your shirt tucked in. Yet our high view of education acknowledges that our sinfulness results in a need for boundaries and standards. God is for modesty, for order, and for unity. A Biblical approach, then, should be intentional, supporting and reinforcing the broader goals of education and Christlikeness which is in contrast with the worldly perspective that desires to cast off *all* restraint. A uniform on its own will not produce godly character, but when implemented within a Biblically-integrated school culture, it can become a meaningful part of a student's discipleship and growth. We desire to be reasonable—with a uniform that is clear and simple for students to follow and for staff to enforce—so that our learning environment is protected and that we can best steward our time in discipling our students.

Students have the responsibility to dress in accordance with the uniform and dress code as written, and if they are not in compliance, acknowledge that there will be consequences assigned. Before students leave home each day, it is the parents' responsibility to see that their student is dressed properly for school according to the uniform. If a student is out of uniform, they may be required to change before returning to class. For specific consequences following uniform or dress code violations, please see the Discipline and Consequences Chart in the full handbook. **At their discretion, the administration reserves the right to declare any portion of a student's outfit as unacceptable attire. Administration also reserves the right to edit the uniform and dress code policies at any time.**

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Acceptable attire:

- Pants: modest fit pants
- Dresses/skirts/tunics: must be fingertip length at minimum; dresses, skirts, or tunics that are
 above the knee MUST have shorts or leggings beneath. If the dress/skirt comes to the middle
 of the thigh or longer, girls may wear tights instead of shorts or leggings
- Shorts: modest fit shorts with no holes and that reach fingertip length AND/OR are of a 5" inseam (students whose shorts are of questionable length may be required to provide proof of the 5" inseam)
- Shirts: modest fit shirts
- Shoes: dress shoes, gym shoes, sandals, clogs, Crocs, or boots must be clean and in good condition

Unacceptable attire:

- Bottoms: leggings (without a fingertip length dress, skirt, or t-shirt over), spandex, shorts which are not visible below the shirt
- Dresses/tops: spaghetti strap or strapless, immodest fit, see-through (anything which allows for undergarments to be seen), cleavage-revealing, crop tops which leave midriff exposed
- Shoes: slippers or any shoe with wheels in the sole
- Any article of clothing which is too tight or form-fitting—restricting movement or emphasizing bodily curves. Students should be able to pinch an inch of fabric on any article of clothing.
- Any article of clothing or accessory that displays obscene, sexually suggestive, vulgar, violent, or otherwise inappropriate slogans/insults
- Any article of clothing that sags or will not stay up
- Hats or headwear, including a raised hood
- Chains, spikes, or jewelry indicating gang affiliation or considered to be potentially harmful

Appearance standards:

- All clothing should be clean and in good condition
- Hair should be clean, well-groomed, not extreme (as determined by administration, including, but not limited to: excessive length for boys, mohawks, spikes, non-natural colors, etc.), and away from the eyes. Compliance will be determined by the administration.
- High school boys may have facial hair. Boys' facial hair is to be neat and well-groomed at all times. No shaggy or unkempt appearance will be allowed. Compliance will be determined by the administration.

RECOMMENDED UNIFORM COMPANIES FOR ALL STUDENTS

All daily dress and chapel dress uniforms should be purchased from French Toast, Walmart (uniform brand), Old Navy, Children's Place, or Lands' End to be guaranteed the correct colors and styles.

Lands' End Uniforms www.landsend.com/school
French Toast www.FrenchToast.com
Walmart www.walmart.com
Old Navy www.oldnavy.com

Children's Place www.childrensplace.com

<u>New for 2025-2026</u>: All students are returning to a uniform for chapel and 7-12th graders are returning to a uniform for **both** daily and chapel dress. K-5th grade girls' bottom options for daily dress will include clear blue plaid (the name of the plaid) for dresses/skirts in addition to navy blue. See further details below.

K-5TH UNIFORM FOR DAILY & CHAPEL DRESS

All uniform items should be purchased through Land's End, French Toast, Walmart, Old Navy, or Children's Place. School spirit wear must be purchased through the FOFCA spirit wear website. Spirit wear for elementary school students may only be worn on Fridays or with a dress-down pass.

GIRLS' UNIFORM FOR DAILY DRESS

Tops

- Polos: heather gray, navy, white, or orange-short or long sleeve
- **Sweaters**: (optional) if worn, must be completely plain or with a FOFCA logo-gray, navy, white, or orange, zip-up (with hoods acceptable), button down, or cable knit (<u>a polo must be</u> worn beneath)
- **Dresses**: heather gray, navy, white, or orange polo uniform dresses, fingertip length at a minimum—if the dress is above the knee, girls must wear shorts or leggings underneath it, if it comes to the middle of the thigh or is longer, girls may wear tights instead of leggings or shorts.

Bottoms: all bottoms must be <u>navy blue</u> or <u>clear blue plaid</u>

- Pants: khaki-style or chino pants (NOT sweatpants or sweatshirt material)
- Shorts: khaki-style or chino shorts, 5" inseam minimum and/or fingertip length
- **Jumpers/skirts**: jumpers, skirt, or skort (any style), fingertip length at a minimum—if the dress is above the knee, girls must wear shorts or leggings underneath it, if it comes to the middle of the thigh or is longer, girls may wear tights instead of leggings or shorts.
- Socks/tights/leggings: black, gray, white, or navy
- **Shoes**: black, gray, white, navy, or brown dress shoe, gym shoe, loafers, boots, sandals, Crocs, or flats (sparkles are acceptable)

BOYS' UNIFORM FOR DAILY DRESS

Tops

- Polos: heather gray, navy, white, or orange-short or long sleeve
- **Sweaters**: (optional) if worn, must be completely plain or with a FOFCA logo-gray, navy, white, or orange, zip-up (with hoods acceptable), button down, or cable knit (<u>a polo must</u> <u>be worn beneath</u>)

Bottoms: all bottoms must be <u>navy blue</u>

- Pants: khaki-style or chinos, (NOT sweatpant or sweatshirt material)
- Shorts: khaki-style or chinos, 5" inseam minimum
- Socks: black, gray, white, or navy

- **Shoes**: black, gray, white, navy, or brown dress shoe, gym shoe, loafers, boots, sandals, Crocs, or flats
- Belts: optional for daily dress, if worn, must match shoes, may be black, navy, or brown

GIRLS' UNIFORM FOR CHAPEL DRESS (SAMPLE IMAGES BELOW)

Tops: all tops for chapel dress must be white

- Oxford-style shirt: white button-down dress shirt only, short or long sleeve
- **Sweaters (optional)**: navy *only*, must be completely plain (embroidered FOFCA eagle logo acceptable), cardigan, button down, blazer style, or cable knit vest-style (*zip-ups, hooded sweatshirts, or crew neck sweatshirts are NOT permitted*)

Skirts: all skirts for chapel dress must be <u>clear blue plaid</u>

- **Skirts**: fingertip length at a minimum— if the skirt is above the knee, girls must wear shorts, leggings, or tights underneath it
- Tights/leggings: navy only
- Socks: navy only (may be knee high, ankle, or no-show)
- **Shoes**: black, navy, brown, or white dress shoe or stylish gym shoe (such as Converse or Vans) in excellent condition, boots, sandals, or flats (sparkles are acceptable)

BOYS' UNIFORM FOR CHAPEL DRESS (SAMPLE IMAGES BELOW)

Tops: all tops for chapel dress must be white

- Oxford-style shirt: white button-down dress shirt only, short or long sleeve
- Tie (required): clear blue plaid only, bow tie or necktie
- **Sweaters (optional)**: navy *only*, must be completely plain (embroidered FOFCA eagle logo acceptable), cardigan, button down, blazer style, or cable knit vest-style (*zip-ups, hooded sweatshirts, or crew neck sweatshirts are NOT permitted*)

Bottoms: all pants for chapel dress must be <u>navy blue</u> dress pants

- Socks: navy only
- **Shoes**: black, navy, brown, or white dress shoe or stylish gym shoe (such as Converse or Vans) in excellent condition
- Belts: (optional for K-2nd) may be black, navy, or brown



EXAMPLES OF K-5TH DAILY DRESS UNIFORM

orange, gray, navy, or white polo + navy or clear blue plaid pants/shorts/skirts



EXAMPLES OF K-5TH CHAPEL DRESS UNIFORM

white Oxford button down + clear blue plaid skirt (girls) or navy pants (boys)

6-12TH UNIFORM FOR DAILY & CHAPEL DRESS

All uniform items should be purchased through Land's End, French Toast, Walmart, Old Navy, or Children's Place. Junior high and high school students may wear jeans and t-shirts/hoodies of their choosing (must be school-appropriate) on Fridays instead of khakis and polos.

GIRLS' UNIFORM FOR DAILY DRESS

Tops

- Polos: any solid color, short or long sleeve
- **Sweaters**: (optional) any color, if worn, must be completely plain or with a FOFCA logo, button down, zip-up (with hoods acceptable), or cable knit (*a polo MUST be worn beneath*)
- **Dresses**: any color polo uniform dresses, fingertip length at a minimum—if the dress is above the knee, girls must wear shorts or leggings underneath it, if it comes to the middle of the thigh or is longer, girls may wear tights instead of leggings or shorts.

Bottoms: all bottoms must be <u>navy blue</u>, <u>black</u>, <u>gray</u>, <u>tan</u>, or <u>clear blue plaid</u>

- **Pants**: khaki-style or chinos (NOT leggings-style or sweatshirt material)
- Shorts: khaki-style or chinos, 5" inseam minimum and/or fingertip length
- **Jumpers/skirts**: jumpers, skirt, or skort (any style), fingertip length at a minimum—if the dress is above the knee, girls must wear shorts or leggings underneath it, if it comes to the middle of the thigh or is longer, girls may wear tights instead of leggings or shorts.
- Socks/tights/leggings: any appropriate colors or print
- Shoes: any appropriate colors-dress shoe, gym shoe, loafers, boots, sandals, Crocs, or flats

BOYS' UNIFORM FOR DAILY DRESS

Tops

- Polos: any solid color, short or long sleeve
- **Sweaters**: (optional) any color, if worn, must be completely plain or with a FOFCA logo, button down, zip-up (with hoods acceptable), or cable knit (*a polo must be worn beneath*)

Bottoms: all bottoms must be <u>navy blue</u>, <u>black</u>, <u>gray</u>, <u>or tan</u>

- Pants: khaki-style or chinos (NOT sweatshirt material)
- **Shorts**: khaki-style or chinos, 5" inseam minimum
- **Socks**: any appropriate color or print
- **Shoes**: any appropriate colors-dress shoe, gym shoe, loafers, boots, sandals, Crocs, or flats
- Belts: optional for daily dress

GIRLS UNIFORM FOR CHAPEL DRESS (SAMPLE IMAGES BELOW)

Tops: all tops for chapel dress must be <u>white</u>, tucked in, with a belt (if wearing pants) at all times

- Oxford-style shirt: white button-down dress shirt only, short or long sleeve
- **Sweaters (optional)**: navy *only*, must be completely plain (embroidered FOFCA eagle logo acceptable), cardigan, button down, blazer style, or cable knit vest-style (*zip-ups, hooded sweatshirts, or crew neck sweatshirts are NOT permitted*)

Bottoms: pants must be <u>navy</u> or skirts must be <u>clear blue plaid</u>

- **Skirts**: fingertip length at a minimum— if the skirt is above the knee, girls must wear shorts, leggings, or tights underneath it
- Pants: khaki-style or chino dress pants
- Tights/leggings: navy only
- Socks: navy only (may be knee high, ankle, or no-show)
- **Shoes**: black, navy, brown, or white dress shoe or stylish gym shoe (such as Converse or Vans) in excellent condition, boots, sandals, or flats

BOYS UNIFORM FOR CHAPEL DRESS (SAMPLE IMAGES BELOW)

Tops: all tops for chapel dress must be white, tucked in, with a belt at all times

- Oxford-style shirt: white button-down dress shirt only, short or long sleeve
- Tie (required): clear blue plaid or navy only, bow tie or necktie
- **Sweaters (optional)**: navy *only*, must be completely plain (embroidered FOFCA eagle logo acceptable), cardigan, button down, blazer style, or cable knit vest-style (*zip-ups, hooded sweatshirts, or crew neck sweatshirts are NOT permitted*)

Bottoms: all pants for chapel dress must be <u>navy blue</u> dress pants

- Socks: navy only
- **Shoes**: black, navy, brown, or white dress shoe or stylish gym shoe (such as Converse or Vans) in excellent condition
- **Belts**: may be black, navy, or brown



EXAMPLES OF 6-12TH DAILY DRESS UNIFORM

any solid color polo + black, gray, tan, navy, or clear blue plaid pants/shorts/skirts



EXAMPLES OF 6-12TH CHAPEL DRESS UNIFORM

white Oxford button down + navy pants (boys and girls) or clear blue plaid skirt (girls)

MANDATORY DRESS GUIDELINES

SPECIAL EVENT DRESS CODE FOR ALL STUDENTS PK-12

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR MANDATORY DRESS

Mandatory dress differs from chapel dress, giving our students the opportunity to style themselves in a business-like manner. We use mandatory dress days for special occasions such as picture day, the Christmas play, science fair, and graduation.

BOYS' MANDATORY DRESS CODE

- Pants: Wrinkle-free dress pants, any color
- Shirts: Wrinkle-free, collared button-down dress shirt or polo, any color. For 3rd-HS boys, shirts are to be tucked in with a belt.
- Socks: Dress socks may be black, brown, navy blue, or fun-patterned socks
- **Belts**: (Optional for PK-2nd) Black, brown, or coordinated w/outfit, must match dress shoes if worn
- **Shoes**: Dress shoe, dress boots, or stylish gym shoe in excellent condition (such as Converse or Vans) coordinated w/ outfit
- **Optional items**: Ties—necktie or bow tie, any color, solid or patterned, matching suit jackets, blazers, jean jackets, or vests

GIRLS' MANDATORY DRESS CODE

- Pants: Wrinkle-free dress pants, any color
- **Skirts/dresses**: Must be fingertip length at minimum; dresses, skirts, or tunics that are *above* the knee MUST have shorts or leggings beneath. If the dress/skirt comes to the middle of the thigh or is longer, girls may wear tights instead of leggings or shorts. Dress straps must be a minimum of three fingers wide to be worn without a cover
- Shirts: Shirts must have a strap that is three fingers wide to be worn without a cover
- Socks/tights/leggings: Dress socks or tights must coordinate with the outfit
- **Shoes**: Dress flats, dress boots, dress sandals, heels, or stylish gym shoe in excellent condition (such as Converse or Vans) coordinated w/ outfit
- Optional items: Blazers, jean jackets

MANDATORY DRESS UNACCEPTABLE ATTIRE:

Everything considered unacceptable in the general guidelines is also unacceptable for mandatory dress.

- Pants: No jeans of any color, shorts, or athleisure (leggings, sweatpants, etc.)
- **Tops**: Crew neck or hooded sweatshirts, t-shirts, hoodies, and outdoor jackets are not permitted (including spirit wear)
- **Shoes**: Flip flops, jellies, Crocs, or slides

ATHLETIC DRESS

INTRAMURAL AND COMPETITIVE SPORTS PRACTICES, FIELD DAY

- T-shirts
- Modest tank tops (straps must be a minimum of three fingers wide, undergarments must be covered)
- Athletic shorts that reach fingertip length AND/OR are of a 5" inseam (Spandex or biker shorts may be worn beneath athletic shorts but never alone)
- Sweatpants or joggers
- Athletic-quality leggings (top must reach fingertips)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GRADES 6-12 STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO DRESS IN PE UNIFORM DURING THEIR CLASS

- School-provided t-shirt
- Shorts provided by the school **OR** navy, gray, or black sweatpants
- Non-marking indoor shoes to be left at school

GAME DAY DRESS

GRADES 4-12 STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN UNIFORM FOR GAME DAY

- Tops: FOFCA-athletics provided polo
- Bottoms: Navy, tan, gray, black, or clear blue plaid only (pants, shorts, or skirts)
- Socks/tights/leggings: Dress socks or tights must coordinate with the outfit
- **Shoes**: Dress flats, dress boots, dress sandals, heels, or stylish gym shoe in excellent condition (such as Converse or Vans) coordinated w/ outfit

DRESS DOWN

GUIDELINES FOR ALL STUDENTS K-12TH

- Pants: Jeans, sweatpants, leggings (top MUST be fingertip length at a minimum over leggings), joggers, athletic shorts, (5" inseam and/or fingertip length minimum)
- Tops: T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, zip-ups (follow general guidelines)
- Shoes: Slides acceptable (follow general guidelines)

Please note: pajamas are NOT part of dress down and may only be worn on specific pajama days