

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Students should be in uniform from the moment they enter the school building as it establishes a sense of the excellence and standards we believe in at Mater Dei Academy. It is hoped that students wear the uniform with pride. The dress code is offered with the following considerations in mind:

1. We request a standard from our students which will assist in establishing an atmosphere for each student individually, and in the school as a whole, which is conducive to good conduct, study habits and personal respect for all.
2. We assist parents in the purpose and selection of clothing which will not encourage an atmosphere of competition in student dress.
3. We help students develop a good sense of tasteful and attractive dress based on the Catholic values of Mater Dei Academy.
4. We offer clear directives which can be easily interpreted by parents in purchasing clothing by following the dress code and by the faculty in enforcing the dress code.
5. The dress code is in effect from the first day until the last day of school.

We believe that there is a direct relationship between being well-groomed and properly dressed and productive work habits for school. We take into consideration personal hygiene, development of good habits of grooming and property, or that which is correct and in good taste for a particular situation. We stress that:

1. Uniforms should be worn proudly and students should enter and leave the building attired in proper uniform, and students should strive for a neat and clean appearance at all times.
2. A parent or doctor's note is required if it is necessary for a child to be out of proper uniform.

DRESS CODE DETAILS

Uniform is worn daily in grades K-8 -- **Please label all of your child's clothing and ensure that clothing fits appropriately and is not over- or under-sized.**

***Failure to follow the dress code will result in a dress code violation notification. This may also result in a phone call home to parents for correct uniform pieces or the school may provide an acceptable alternative if parent is not available.**

Girls Grades K-3

- Jumper: Plaid# 847 V-neck or Drop waist, length to top of knee. Must be purchased from Schoolbelles or at the MDA used uniform sale. Dark shorts may be worn under jumpers.
- Pants: Khaki or black twill or corduroy. No stretch, cargo style or painter style pants. No cuffed or elasticized ankles.
- Tops: Blouse, knit polo with collar, or turtleneck in solid white or maroon, short or long sleeve, with no logos.
- Sweater: Cardigan, pullover, or vest in gray or maroon with school logo. Must be purchased from Schoolbelles or at the MDA used uniform sale. Sweaters must be worn to Mass from October 1st until May crowning, and on designated dress uniform events.
- Socks: Cuffed, knee highs, leggings or tights in solid white, maroon, black or gray. White, maroon, black, or gray crew socks may be worn over tights. No designs are permitted on socks or tights. Feet must be covered by tights or socks. Socks may have one, small, brand logo, no more than 1"x1". Socks must be above the ankle bone.
- Shoes: Sturdy "traditional" school shoes with heels no higher than 1" in solid colors of black, brown, gray, or tan with closed toe and heel. No platforms. (Imitation or real leather Sperrys are OK. **Canvas or fabric shoes such as "Hey Dudes" or "Vans" are not**) Tennis shoes may only be worn on gym days or with summer uniform shorts.
- Sweatshirts: MDA crew neck sweatshirts or hoodies may be worn in the classroom over the regular school uniform, but may not be worn for Mass.

Girls Grades 4-5

- Skirt: Plaid# 847 Classic pleated, kilt, or skort styles. Must be purchased from Schoolbelles or the MDA used uniform sale. **Skirts should be no shorter than 3" above the knee and should not be rolled at the waist.**

- Pants: Traditional khaki, black twill or corduroy. No stretch, legging, cargo style or painter style pants. No cuffed or elasticized ankles and pants should fall to the top of the shoe.
- Tops: Knit polo or blouse with a collar in solid white or maroon in short or long sleeve, with no logos. If the polo does not have a banded bottom, it must be tucked in. **Plain white tee shirt or camisole must be worn under polos.**
- Sweater: Cardigan, pullover, or vest in gray or maroon with school logo. Must be purchased from Schoolbelles or the MDA used uniform sale. Sweaters must be worn to Mass from October 1st through May crowning, and on designated dress uniform events.
- Socks: **Solid color tights or leggings in white, maroon, black or gray must be worn under skirts.** White, maroon, black, or gray crew socks may be worn over tights. No designs are permitted on socks or tights. Feet must be covered by tights or socks. Socks may have one, small, brand logo, no more than 1"x1". Socks must be above the ankle bone.
- Shoes: Sturdy "traditional" school shoes with heels no higher than 1" in solid colors of black, brown, gray, or tan with closed toe and heel. No platforms. **(Imitation or real leather Sperrys are OK. Canvas or fabric shoes such as "Hey Dudes" or "Vans" are not)** Tennis shoes may only be worn on gym days or with summer uniform shorts.
- Sweatshirts: MDA crew neck sweatshirts or hoodies may be worn in the classroom over the regular school uniform, but may not be worn for Mass.

Girls Grades 6-8

- Skirt: Plaid# 847 Classic pleated, kilt, or skort styles. Must be purchased from Schoolbelles or the MDA used uniform sale. Solid color tights or leggings in white, maroon, black or gray must be worn under skirts. **Skirts should be no shorter than 3" above the knee and should not be rolled at the waist.**
- Pants: Khaki or black twill or corduroy. No stretch, cargo style or painter style pants. No cuffed or elasticized ankles.
- Tops: Knit polo or blouse with a collar in solid white or maroon in short or long sleeve, with no logos. If the polo does not have a banded bottom, it must be tucked in. **Plain white tee shirt or camisole must be worn under polos.**
- Sweater: Cardigan, pullover, or vest in gray or maroon with school logo. Must be purchased from Schoolbelles or the MDA used uniform sale. Sweaters must be worn to Mass from October 1st through May crowning, and on designated dress uniform events.
- Socks: **Solid color tights or leggings in white, maroon, black or gray must be worn under skirts.** White, maroon, black, or gray crew socks may be worn over tights. No designs are permitted on socks or tights. Feet must be covered by tights or

- socks. Socks may have one, small, brand logo, no more than 1"x1". Socks must be above the ankle bone.
- Shoes: Sturdy "traditional" school shoes with heels no higher than 1" in solid colors of black, brown, gray, or tan with closed toe and heel. No platforms. **(Imitation or real leather Sperrys are OK. Canvas or fabric shoes such as "Hey Dudes" or "Vans" are not)** Tennis shoes may only be worn on gym days or with summer uniform shorts.
- Sweatshirts: MDA crew neck sweatshirts or hoodies **may only be worn on gym days in junior high**, over the regular gym uniform. 8th grade students may wear their class T-shirt or CYO varsity jacket with uniform bottoms on the designated day. (Tuesday for 2026-27)

Boys Grades K-5

- Pants: Khaki or black twill or corduroy. No cargo style or painter style pants. No cuffed or elasticized ankles. Pants must be worn at the waist with a black or brown belt if there are belt loops. Grades K-2 are not required to wear a belt.
- Shirts: Solid white or maroon knit polos with no logos in long or short sleeve. Shirts must be worn tucked inside pants. Plain white tee shirt may be worn underneath.
- Sweater: Cardigan, pullover, or vest in gray or maroon with school logo. Must be purchased from Schoolbelles or the MDA used uniform sale. Sweaters must be worn to Mass from October 1st through May crowning, and on designated dress uniform events.
- Socks: Crew socks in solid white or black must always be worn with pants or shorts. Socks must be above the ankle bone. Socks may have one, small, brand logo, no more than 1"x1".
- Shoes: Sturdy "traditional" school shoes with heels no higher than 1" in solid colors of black, brown, gray, or tan with closed toe and heel. No platforms. **(Imitation or real leather Sperrys are OK. Canvas or fabric shoes such as "Hey Dudes" or "Vans" are not)** Tennis shoes may only be worn on gym days or with summer uniform shorts.
- Sweatshirts: MDA crew neck sweatshirts or hoodies may be worn in the classroom over the regular school uniform, but may not be worn for Mass.

Boys Grades 6-8

- Pants: Khaki or black twill or corduroy. No cargo style or painter style pants. No cuffed or elasticized ankles. Pants must be worn at the waist and if designed with loops must be worn with a black or brown belt.
- Shirt: Dress shirts in solid white, with no logos, in long or short sleeve. Shirts should be reasonably wrinkle-free and must be worn tucked inside pants. Plain white tee shirt may be worn underneath.

- Ties:** Ties are to be worn with dress shirts and tied correctly . Any solid color or appropriate print worn daily. Bow ties may be worn.
- Sweater:** Cardigan, pullover, or vest in gray or maroon with school logo. Must be purchased from Schoolbelles or the MDA used uniform sale. Sweaters must be worn to Mass from October 1st-May crowning, and on designated dress uniform events.
- Socks:** Crew socks in solid white or black must always be worn with pants or shorts. Socks must be above the ankle bone. Socks may have one, small, brand logo, no more than 1"x1".
- Shoes:** Sturdy "traditional" school shoes with heels no higher than 1" in solid colors of black, brown, gray, or tan with closed toe and heel. No platforms. (Leather Sperrys are OK. Canvas or fabric shoes such as "Hey Dudes" or "Vans" are not) **Tennis shoes may only be worn on gym days.**
- Sweatshirts:** MDA crew neck sweatshirts or hoodies **may only be worn on gym days**, over the regular gym uniform. 8th grade students may wear their class T-shirt or CYO varsity jacket with uniform bottoms on the designated day. (Wednesday for 2026-27)

All Students K-8

- Sweater:** All students must purchase a uniform sweater with school logo from Schoolbelles or the MDA used uniform sale. Sweater will be mandatory at Mass from October 1st through May crowning, and on designated dress uniform events. Students are also permitted to wear their sweaters on any other day that they choose.

Jewelry and Accessories:

Students are permitted to wear **one traditional** watch and **one** bracelet, **one** ring, and **one** religious necklace tucked into blouse or shirt. No hats, bandannas, or headscarves. No animal ear headbands are permitted. Students may not mark, write, draw, color or have stickers or tattoos on their skin.

Girls: may wear **one pair** of small post earrings on **ear lobe only**. No dangling earrings are allowed. A small hoop earring is permissible ("pinky" finger should not fit in earring as a general guideline) "Drop" earrings should be small and discrete (ex use pinky fingernail as a measuring device. Larger than that is not discrete)

Boys: May not wear earrings to school or school functions.
No other visible body piercings are permitted on boys or girls.

- Hair:** Must be neatly groomed with no extreme hairstyles or unnatural coloring (pink, purple, etc). Hair may not be worn covering eyes and face. **Hairstyles should not distract a student themselves or others from learning.**

Boys: Hair must be of a reasonable length that is out of the eyes and no longer than the top of the shirt collar. Front of hair may be no longer than the eyebrows. Hair may not be past the bottom of the ear lobe. Overall length or color should not make a student stand out from others.

Make-up: K-5: No make-up is allowed. Light pastel or clear nail polish is permitted.

Gr 6-8: Girls may wear a small amount of natural looking make-up limited to a light coat of mascara and clear lip gloss. No colored patches or stickers should be visible on the face or body. Nails may be painted in a light pastel or clear nail polish and must be rounded and mid-length. No artificial or brightly colored nails are permitted. Principal, teachers, and staff have the right to decide what is natural looking make-up and a suitable manicure.

Boys: No makeup or nail polish is permitted.

Non-traditional Uniform: Worn during designated times

Optional: ("Summer" uniform) **Worn in August, September, May, and June**
Khaki or black walking shorts. Refer to Schoolbelles buying guide.

*Tennis shoes may only be worn with walking shorts.

*Crew socks in solid white or black must always be worn with pants or shorts. Socks must be above the ankle bone. Socks may have one, small, brand logo, no more than 1"x1".

**6-8 grade boys who choose to wear walking shorts may wear a solid white or maroon polo shirt tucked in instead of a dress shirt with tie. Boys may also wear a solid color polo shirt*

Phys-Ed: Students must wear the gray Mater Dei gym shirt with solid micro mesh maroon gym shorts; white, maroon, black, or gray socks above the ankle bone; and tennis shoes. The gym uniform is available to purchase at the PTU sponsored spirit wear website (<https://mdaspiritwear.com/>) or you can find the link under the parent resource tab on our website. It can also be purchased at the MDA used uniform sale.

*All students in K-8 will wear their gym uniform to school on their designated gym day. Gym shorts will be worn during August, September, May, and June. Solid gray, maroon, or black sweatpants may be worn over the gym shorts at this and all other times. (MDA sweatpants are OK) **Please ensure that shorts and shirt are sized appropriately and replace as necessary. Shorts should not be noticeably too tight or too short, which interferes with physical activity and defeats the purpose of a comfortable and modest outfit for ease of movement.***

Sweatshirts: MDA crew neck sweatshirts or hoodies may be worn in the classroom over the regular school uniform in grades K-5. Sweatshirts are not to be worn to Mass. Grades 6-8 may only wear an MDA sweatshirt or hoodie on gym days. *8th grade students only may wear their class T-shirt or CYO varsity jacket on designated day (Wednesday for 2026-27)

Out of Uniform Days, including field trips and birthdays

When students are permitted to be out of uniform, these rules must be followed.

Students may dress down on their birthday (or Monday or Thursday if it falls on a weekend. No dress downs will occur on a Mass day)

- Jeans, khaki style pants, sweatpants, or joggers with no rips or holes, are to be worn
- No tank, sleeveless, or thin strapped tops.
- No tops that are revealing, have low cut necklines, or expose bare midriffs when sitting, stretching, bending over, or stooping.
- No pajama pants, pants with rips or holes or any pants with writing on them.
- Pants may not be worn low or sagging.
- No skirts or dresses shorter than top of knee.
- Yoga pants are not permitted.
- Leggings are not considered “pants”. Leggings may only be worn under a skirt or dress. Leggings may not be worn with just a blouse or sweater top.
- No shorts may be worn unless they are **knee length, such as Bermuda shorts**.
- Capri style pants may be worn.
- No inappropriate words, designs, or pictures on any clothing.
- On spirit days or other special celebrations, school spirit wear may be worn.
- Students who do not have spirit wear may wear shirts with school colors.
- Shoes may be tennis, school, or dress shoes.
- No flip-flops, slides, sandals of any kind, no work boots, or shoes with heels.

“Add-on Days”

- On occasions where students may add-on to the uniform, the following must be observed:
 - Students will wear their usual lower half of the uniform, including skirts or pants.
 - Depending on the theme of the day, students may add an appropriate tee shirt or hoodie.

On special occasions and performances students will have the option to dress up or wear their dress uniform. For choral performances, the music teacher may request specific colors or outfits. For band concerts, students are expected to dress as performers for an audience, which means no jeans, sweatshirts, tennis shoes etc.

Parents understand that once they enroll at Mater Dei Academy a school uniform is mandatory and is to be worn properly as a sign of school pride and membership in the community. Parents are not required to purchase all items from Schoolbelles, but are responsible to purchase items that are the same as the ones sold at Schoolbelles. The MDA PTU also has used uniform sales throughout the school year for your convenience. When students wear clothing that does not meet the dress code or uniform regulations, parents

will be contacted by phone or in writing, and they may be required to provide regulation clothing immediately by bringing it up to the school. School may also provide loaned clothing for the day to replace the inappropriate clothing, especially if multiple warnings and consequences have been given. It is the responsibility of the parents to make sure their children are wearing the uniform and wearing it properly. Principal's decision is final.

Water Bottles-While water bottles are not an official part of the school uniform, many families choose to send them to school with students despite the presence of water fountains. Due to multiple incidents and disruptions to classroom learning, beginning in the 2026-27 school year, **all water bottles brought to school must be 16 ounces or less. While they may be metal, plastic or enclosed glass, only water should be brought to school for consumption during the day. No other liquids or liquid additives should be sent to school for students. Water bottle fillers are installed on all fountains, therefore students can refill bottles during the day if needed.**