

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Uniform Policy

At Saint Thomas, we believe that uniforms help to keep the focus on learning by providing students with age appropriate, modest attire suited to the learning and physical activity our students experience during a school day. Uniforms limit visual distractions. Uniforms from a single source help limit opportunities for economic discrimination by having all students wear the same range of uniform items from the same source. Additionally, uniforms promote a sense of belonging in our immediate school community and identify and promote our school when our students participate within our larger community.

- If purchasing uniform items will present a financial hardship for a family, please contact the Principal or Assistant Principal for confidential assistance.
- Our uniform supplier is My Aplus Uniforms. All items can be viewed and purchased on their website lansing.myaplusuniforms.com/collections/st-thomas-the-apostle.
- The school will continue to offer the service of a “uniform table.” Uniform table items are available at school throughout the school year. During the final week of school, additional tables with uniforms will be set up in the first floor hallway. Any family may donate gently used uniform items in good repair. Likewise, any family may take items from the uniform table. There is no fee for taking uniform table items. If a family would like to make a contribution for uniform table items, please consider making a donation to the Saint Thomas the Apostle Education Foundation.
- Please contact the school office with questions or concerns. If you would like to discuss a policy exception to meet your child’s individual needs, please contact the Principal or Assistant Principal.

Uniform Code and Item Descriptions

General Rules

- Preschool students do not wear uniforms. Preschool students should follow the Uniform Holiday rules in selecting attire for school.
- Students in Grades K-8 are expected to be in uniform daily unless it is a uniform holiday, special dress day. Uniform Holiday rules govern attire when uniforms are not worn.
- At all times, students are expected to maintain an age appropriate, tidy, and modest appearance.
- Undershirts worn under a uniform shirt or blouse must be solid white in color and have no print.
- Spirit wear (Hornet logo) is not a permitted part of the school uniform.
- Students must wear shirts/blouses tucked in and buttoned at all times.
- Students must wear uniform compliant belts with shorts or pants in Grades 6-8. Belts are optional for other grades.
- Uniform shorts may be worn during designated dates in the fall and spring. Fall dates are from the beginning of the school year until October 31. Spring dates are from April 1 until the end of the school year.

- Students must wear socks with shoes. Students may wear leather shoes or tennis shoes with enclosed toes and enclosed heels. High top sneakers worn with socks showing above the shoe are allowed. Students may wear boots to school on rainy or snowy days, but must change into shoes for indoors. Outdoor boots, fashion boots (Hunter, UGGs), cowboy boots, and ankle boots are not uniform approved.
- Hair should be neatly groomed and of its natural color.
- Distracting hairstyles and jewelry are not permitted.
- No face or body makeup.
- Nail polish is permitted but must be one solid color without embellishments.
- Jewelry should be small, plain and simple.
- One necklace, one pair of earrings (dangling earrings may not be worn for safety purposes, one ring per hand, one bracelet per hand, one watch).
- Religious medals may be worn.
- Headbands may be worn but cannot be of excessive size and should be school plaid, white, green, or navy.

Attire for Mass

All Student may wear a short/long sleeve white, button down oxford shirt to school mass with a school plaid tie (male and female tie options are available) purchased from My A Plus Uniforms with navy shorts or pants for grades 1-5 and khaki pants for grades 6-8.

Girls may also wear a white blouse or polo with one of the following skirted items: a plaid 4 pleat skirt or a plaid jumper.

Students may wear fleece to school, but will be encouraged to remove the fleece during the celebration of Mass. Blazers and sweaters are optional items that can be purchased from My A Plus Uniforms and are permitted during Mass.

Belts are required at grade levels 6-8 for mass when pants are worn and optional for all other grades.

Uniform Descriptions by Grade Level

Preschool Students

Preschool students do not wear our uniform. Preschool students should follow the Uniform Holiday code in selecting attire for school.

All Students, All Grades K-8

- Short/long sleeve hunter polo (Must have school logo and be purchased from the uniform supplier.)
- Short/long sleeve white polo (Permitted, but not required to have school logo) No other logos/branding permitted on white polos. Collars and cuffs should be unisex and not embellished. These may be purchased from any uniform supplier.
- Short/long sleeve white, button down, oxford shirt (Permitted, but not required to have school logo.) These may be purchased from any uniform supplier.

- For grades K-5: Navy twill shorts or pants. Pants and shorts should be a traditional, dress fit, with pleated or flat fronts. Pants and shorts should fit modestly (in tightness, length, and coverage/rise at the waist) and permit students to run and jump freely. Shorts should be walking or mid thigh length. Pants should reach the ankles. No jean, cargo, carpenter, parachute, capri or sweat suit styles. Pants and shorts should be purchased from My A Plus Uniforms.
- For grades 6-8: Khaki twill shorts or pants. Pants and shorts should be a traditional, dress fit, with pleated or flat fronts. Pants and shorts should fit modestly (in tightness, length, and coverage/rise at the waist) and permit students to run and jump freely. Shorts should be walking or mid thigh length. Pants should reach the ankles. No jean, cargo, carpenter, parachute, capri or sweat suit styles. Pants and shorts should be purchased from My A Plus Uniforms.
- Solid color black, navy or white socks. Socks must be ankle, calf or knee style and visible above the shoe line. No logos, branding or words should show above the shoe line. Socks may be purchased from any supplier.
- Black, brown or school plaid belts made from leather or cloth. Belts must be worn with shorts and pants in Grades 6-8 and are optional for all other Grades. Brown and black belts may be purchased from any supplier. School plaid belts are also permitted. Large, logo or banded belt buckles are not uniform approved.
- Optional hunter fleece (Must have school logo.)
- Optional hunter sweater/half zip (Must have school logo.)
- Optional hunter sweater vest (Must have school logo.)
- Optional navy blazer (Permitted, but not required, to have school logo to allow for non-school use.) As the blazer is optional, blazers from other sources will be considered non-uniform.

Girls Only Apparel, All Grades K-8:

- Plaid jumper. Jumper must be at least knee length.
- Plaid, 4-pleat skirt. Skirt must be at least knee length.
- White, button down Peter Pan collar blouse
- White, button down $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeve blouse
- Navy leggings may be worn. The code for leggings is that they must be worn under a jumper, skirt, skort, or kilt. The leggings must be ankle length. Socks must cover the bottom of the legging. These may be purchased elsewhere.
- White, navy or hunter tights. These may be purchased elsewhere.
- Girls may wear uniform or non-uniform shorts or bicycle shorts under a jumper, skirt, skort or kilt for modesty. Items worn for modesty must not be visible at either the waist or from beneath the hemline of the jumper, skirt, skort or kilt.
- Skirts with bare legs may be worn in may be worn during designated dates in the fall and spring. Fall dates are from the beginning of the school year until October 31. Spring dates are from April 1 until the end of the school year. Dress code compliant leggings or tights must be worn under skirts outside of the designated fall and spring days.

Uniform Holiday Guidelines

Casual or dress clothing may be worn but must be appropriate for school. If there is a question as to whether an item of clothing meets the guidelines, please ask in advance or send a compliant alternative with the student to avoid the office contacting a parent or guardian to bring proper attire.

Examples of inappropriate clothing for school includes, but is not limited to:

- No clothing with lewd printed material.
- No shoes without socks.
- No open toes shoes or open heel shoes including, but not limited to: sandals, flip flops, or crocs.
- No boots indoors: fashion, cowboy, or outdoor.
- No sleeveless shirts or blouses.
- No halter or tube tops.
- No clothing with a bare midriff.
- No clothing made of a sheer material.
- No torn, ripped, frayed bottom, or cut off shorts, pants, or jeans.
- No writing on the back or seat of shorts or pants.
- No shorts or skorts above mid-thigh length.
- No skirts above knee length.
- No leggings or jeggings worn as the primary lower article of clothing. They may be worn as a layer under skirts, dresses, shorts, or skorts.

Examples of appropriate clothing for school includes, but is not limited to:

- Jeans, sweatpants, t shirts, sweatshirts
- Shorts (between April 1-October 31), skirts, skorts, athletic pants

Uniform Violations

All students and parents/guardians are expected to know and to comply with the Uniform Guidelines without exception. If there is a question as to whether an item of clothing meets the uniform code, please ask in advance or send a compliant alternative with the student to avoid the office contacting a parent or guardian to bring proper attire.

Every attempt will be made to handle uniform violations in a manner that balances the need for justice to all by consistent enforcement of the uniform code with sensitivity to the student's modesty and emotional dignity while addressing the code violation.

Each teacher will be responsible for seeing that his/her students are wearing proper uniforms. Violations will be handled immediately. Violations will be noted and submitted to the school office each morning and afternoon. If a uniform guideline is broken, the student will be given a violation slip. The violation slip must be returned to school with a parent or guardian signature acknowledging the violation. In cases of inappropriate attire, parents or guardians will be contacted to bring proper attire.