

## UNIFORM DRESS CODE UPDATES AND CHANGES FOR 2015-2016

### UNIFORM DRESS CODE

As students at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, we want them to reflect modesty, dignity, humility, unity with one another, and pride in their school and parish. Our blue and white colors are actually a return to the uniform proudly worn by St. Thomas Aquinas students for many years.

St. Thomas Aquinas students learn discipline and establish standards of behavior and mutual respect by wearing their school uniform. These characteristics lead each person, even the youngest students, to develop self-control and self-respect.

The required blue pants or shorts, paired with green and white shirts, along with our beloved plaid, unites the entire student body and becomes an outward sign of our common goals and purpose of St. Thomas Aquinas School. Pre-school through eighth grade students are brought together simply by wearing a shared uniform. Within the greater Lansing community, our school uniform also distinguishes our students as representatives of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. Our uniform dress code is based on plain, sensible attire that is appropriate for both school and church. The wearing of a uniform continues the lengthy tradition in American Catholic schools.

Our green and white color scheme and our tartan plaid also links us to the legendary Monsignor Jerome V. MacEachin, affectionately known as "Fr. Mac", for it was during his time as pastor that the school opened in 1949 and it was he who chose the school colors and penned the lyrics to our school song.

In all cases where a question arises about the appropriateness of a student's attire, the principal or front office will act as a final arbiter. Violations of the dress code will subject students to disciplinary action.

#### **We work cooperatively with two uniform suppliers:**

Our local business partner is Educational Outfitters at 3320 West Saginaw Street on the west side of Lansing (above the Rosary Book and Gift Shoppe). They are open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Families placing internet orders at [www.educationaloutfitters.org](http://www.educationaloutfitters.org) can use the Access Code MI0878. Sign up to receive exclusive sales offers by e-mail by contacting the owner at [vickey@educationaloutfitters.com](mailto:vickey@educationaloutfitters.com). The number for ordering apparel with the school logo at Educational Outfitters is 9910447K.

Our national business partner is Lands' End with customer service available at Sears or online at [www.landsend.com/school](http://www.landsend.com/school). Our preferred school number with Lands' End is 9000-3967-8. Items may be ordered at Sears and then delivered to the Sears store in Frandor without incurring shipping charges. Families may also pay the shipping charges and have items mailed directly to their homes.

# 2015 – 2016 SCHOOL YEAR

## All School Pre School – Grade 8

Boys and Girls **Navy** Chino - Plain or Pleated Front – Pants, Shorts (1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter only)

Boys and Girls **Evergreen** or **White** Polo Shirt, Long or Short Sleeve with **STA monogram**.

Boys and Girls **Evergreen** Cardigan, Pull Over or Fleece with **STA monogram**

**Shoes** **Solid Color, single color - Black, Dark Brown, Navy** - Loafer, Mary Jane, Lace up, Sperry, Athletic shoes

**No** Moccasins, Ballet Flats, Work Boots, Ankle Boots, Slippers, Crocs

**Socks** must be a **solid, single color** and worn at all times -**No Show socks may not be worn**

Boys and Girls Crew, Ankle socks -Solid, Single Color - **WHITE, BLACK, NAVY BLUE**

Girls may wear knee-high socks or tights - Solid, Single Color - **WHITE, BLACK, NAVY BLUE**

### **Leggings**

**Girls Pre School – Grade 8** may wear **BLACK or NAVY BLUE**, plain, ankle length leggings under Uniform Jumpers, Skorts or Skirts. No Nylons may be worn.

## GIRLS - OPTIONAL

### Preschool - Grade 3

**Plaid Jumper** worn at the knee with **Evergreen or White Polo Shirt or White Peter Pan Collar Blouse** - **No monogram necessary if worn under the Uniform Jumper**

### Preschool - Grade 8

**Plaid Skirt** or Skort worn at the knee with **Evergreen or White Polo Shirt with STA monogram**

Educational Outfitters – All Plaid options are **ONLY** available at Educational Outfitters

## Middle School ONLY

Boys and Girls Black Pullover with STA monogram (Educational Outfitters ONLY)



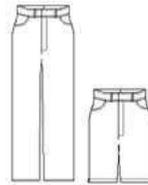
Plaid Jumper  
PreSchool – grade 3  
OPTIONAL



Plaid Skirt  
Preschool – 8



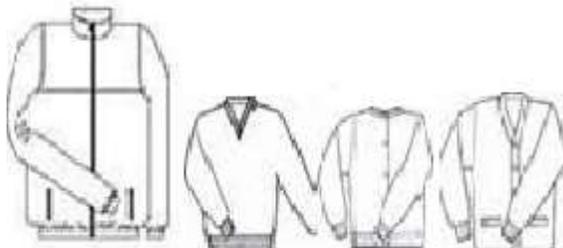
Plaid SKORT  
Preschool – 8



Navy Pant or Short  
Pre School – grade 8



White or Evergreen Polo  
WITH STA Monogram



Evergreen fleece Jacket, V-Neck Pullover, V-Neck/Crew Cardigan  
WITH STA Monogram

**Uniform pants or shorts purchased from a retailer other than Educational Outfitters or Lands' End, must match these styles. If you are unsure, please keep your receipt and check with the school office regarding your child's uniform.**

## **JUMPER, SKIRT, SKORT AND SHORT LENGTH**

As students are taught to dress modestly and build a sense of personal dignity, **Uniform Jumper, Skirts, Skorts and Shorts are to be worn at the knee.**

## **MASS AND TRAVEL (Field Trip) UNIFORM**

Pre School – grade 8

**Evergreen** polo shirt, navy pants or shorts, Plaid Skirts or Skorts or Plaid Jumper  
(Jumper may be worn with evergreen or white shirt)

Outerwear acceptable for Mass

(Comfort permitting - Winter coats should be removed during mass)

**All Grades - Evergreen** Cardigan, Pull Over or Fleece with STA monogram

**Middle School** - Black Pullover with STA monogram

## **SHOES FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS**

***(Necessary if athletic shoes are not worn as part of the school uniform)***

Any color and style of athletic shoe may be worn for Physical Education class. Following class students will be required to change back into their school uniform shoe.

## **DRESS-UP & CASUAL DRESS DAYS**

On certain days during the school year, students will be allowed to be out of uniform attire. Students are still expected to dress in a neat, clean, and modest manner.

### **Dress Up**

Girls Dresses and skirts must be knee length. Spaghetti straps and bare shoulders must be covered with a sweater or shirt. Dress shoes with a 2-inch heel or less may be worn, open toe is acceptable.

Boys Dress slacks, dress shirts, and dress shoes are acceptable. Ties and sport coats are optional.

### **Casual Dress**

Casual attire, including jeans, must be free of holes and rips. **Leggings, yoga pants or tight fitting stretch pants may not be worn. Shorts must be worn no more than 2 inches above the knee.**

T-Shirts and Sweatshirts must be appropriate and in keeping with our Catholic values.

Basketball jerseys and sleeveless shirts must be worn with a t-shirt underneath

Hats may not be worn during the school day.

### **Key points about our uniforms:**

- Students may wear plain white t-shirts under uniform shirts. Any long or short sleeve t-shirt should not be visible under a uniform shirt.
- Chino pants and shorts are plain - cargo style, extra buttons, extra pockets, extra zippers, or extra stitching are not part of the uniform dress code.
- Pants are to be worn at the waist and a plain black or brown belt may be worn if necessary. Undergarments should not be visible at any time.

## **HYGIENE AND GROOMING**

All students should come to school clean and well groomed. Any grooming preference that interferes with our learning environment will be dealt with on an individual basis. (For example, a student's hair length should not interfere with a student's ability to participate in the classroom.)

- Hair shall be groomed so that both eyes are always visible.
- Students in preschool through 5th grade should not wear make-up at school.
- Girls choosing to wear make-up in grades 6 to 8 should do so in a simple and tasteful manner.
- Boys must be clean shaven and hair length must not fall below the shoulders.
- Students who choose to wear jewelry may be asked to remove it in physical education class or when it becomes a distraction or a safety hazard. **Only post earrings may be worn.**

## **DRESS THAT IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE**

- **Leggings, yoga pants or tight fitting stretch pants may not be worn**
- Bare midriffs, strapless, low-cut, tank, cami, or halter tops, see-through attire
- Clothing that is cut, torn, patched, frayed, stained or dirty, oversized, undersized, or sagging
- Clothing that displays messages promoting the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or other

inappropriate symbols for school. Words/branding may not be visible on the backside of pants.

- Mismatched socks
- Sweatshirts are NOT a part of our uniform. Sweatshirts may not be worn during the day in school or during Mass.
- NO shoe worn at school may have flashing lights, studs, jewel embellishments, wheels, nor may they emit noises. Plastic footwear, flip-flop sandals, athletic sandals, or slippers, no clogs or crocs.
- NO Knee-high or ankle boots, cowboy boots, fleece lined boots, winter boots nor any other fashion boot may be worn during the school day.
- Hats may not be worn during the school day.

**The school staff and administration reserves the right to require a student to change any clothing that is out of uniform, inappropriate, immodest, or distracting.**

#### **DRESS CODE VIOLATION**

**1<sup>st</sup> Warning**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Parent called for appropriate clothing & Responsibility Slip**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Detention (loss of recess for grades 1 - 5)**