

DRESS CODE

Divine Mercy Academy is a Catholic elementary school which maintains the right to establish a uniform dress code for its students. It is recognized that proper school attire and good grooming are conducive to a student's educational and social development. The dress code was developed to promote a Christian atmosphere, free children for academic concentration, de-emphasize competition among children regarding clothing, allow more economical dress for school, and provide some choice to accommodate individual differences.

This dress code policy is intended to maintain a standard of dress that is neat, economical, modest, and clean. The goal of a dress code is to emphasize neatness and care appropriate to serious pursuits such as learning. All students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade are required to follow the dress code and be in uniform during each school day (see Gym Uniform Policy for students' designated gym day). It is the obligation of the parents/guardians to see that student dress is according to the guidelines and the spirit for which the uniform was adopted.

Each student is required to purchase one (1) DMA-embroidered, Navy Blue Polo. This shirt is to be worn on Fridays for School Mass, on Holy Days for Mass, or whenever directed by the principal for other events. These and all other embroidered items may be purchased through Log Cabin Embroidery www.logcabinembroidery.com. Additional polos and all other embroidered items are optional. Optional DMA Navy/Red Plaid skirts, jumpers, and accessories may be purchased through Log Cabin Embroidery or through any retailer (Schoolbelles, JCPenney, French Toast, Amazon.com, etc.) which offers a matching pattern.

	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
Shirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red, White Light Blue, or Navy Polo shirts, long or short sleeved - NO pockets, patterns or logos (other than DMA) Collared, button front long or short sleeved dress shirts in Red, White, or Navy - NO pockets, patterns, or logos (other than DMA) DMA embroidered Navy Polo shirt, available through Log Cabin Embroidery Shirts without ribbed bottoms must be tucked in at all times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red, White Light Blue, or Navy Polo shirts, long or short sleeved - NO pockets, patterns or logos (other than DMA) Collared, button front long or short sleeved dress shirts in Red, White, or Navy - NO pockets, patterns, or logos (other than DMA) DMA embroidered Navy Polo shirt, available through Log Cabin Embroidery. Shirts without ribbed bottoms must be tucked in at all times.
Sweatshirts/ Pullovers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMA embroidered full-zip fleece jackets in Navy Blue DMA zip-up wicking jacket in Navy Blue DMA pullover sweatshirts Hoodies are NOT permitted to be worn in school. Uniform shirts must be worn under all sweatshirts/pullovers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMA embroidered full-zip fleece jackets in Navy Blue DMA zip-up wicking jacket in Navy Blue DMA pullover sweatshirts Hoodies are NOT permitted to be worn in school. Uniform shirts must be worn under all sweatshirts/pullovers.
Sweaters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweaters in Red, White, or Navy - button front or full-zip cardigan style Pullover vests in Red, White, or Navy Uniform Shirt must be worn under all sweaters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweaters in Red, White, or Navy - button front or full-zip cardigan style Pullover vests in Red, White, or Navy Uniform Shirt must be worn under all sweaters.
Pants/Shorts Bottoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dress Style Flat of Pleated Navy or Khaki Pants or Shorts* Navy, Khaki or Plaid skirts, skorts or jumpers. Cargo shorts, carpenter pants, skinny pants, and leggings are not permitted. Shorts/Skirts/Skorts.Jumpers must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dress Style Flat of Pleated Navy or Khaki Pants or Shorts* Cargo shorts, carpenter pants, skinny pants, and leggings are not permitted. Shorts are to sit at the waist and not be excessively baggy. <p><i>*Shorts are permitted from April 1-October 31 unless otherwise announced by the administration.</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solid colored shorts, opaque tights, or full length legging (in color of the socks) are to be worn under skirts/jumpers. ● Tights or leggings MUST be worn under skirts when the morning temperature is below 40 degrees. <p><i>*Shorts are permitted from April 1-October 31 unless otherwise announced by the administration.</i></p>	
Socks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Red, Navy, Black, Tan or White plain socks ● Red, Navy, White, or opaque tights - NO PATTERNS OR DESIGNS ● Socks must be worn at all times. ● Socks must be visible. ● Socks may not have conspicuous logos, patterns, or designs on them. Solid colors only. (SMALL Nike, Adidas, etc. symbols are permissible.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Black, Navy, Tan, or White plain socks. ● Socks must be worn at all times. ● Socks must be visible. ● Socks may not have conspicuous logos, patterns, or designs on them. Solid colors only. (SMALL Nike, Adidas, etc. symbols are permissible.)
Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Black, White, Gray, Tan, Brown, or Navy Tennis Shoes with NO designs, lights, or bright colors ● Black, Brown, Tan, or Navy Dress Shoes, including “Sperry” style shoes.* ● Shoes must be flat and closed toed. ● Laces must be tied - NO BRIGHTLY COLORED OR PATTERNED LACES ● Younger students (Grades PK-3) may wear Velcro or easy-on/off shoes. ● Boots are not to be worn with the school uniform. When rain/snow boots are worn to school, uniform shoes must be brought for students to change into. ● Backless shoes, flip flops or slippers are never permitted. ● Fluorescent colored shoes are not permitted. ● Shoes may not be heeled more than one inch. ● Wheeled or light up shoes are not permitted. <p><i>*Tennis shoes are required on gym days.*</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Black, White, Gray, Tan, Brown, or Navy Tennis Shoes with NO designs, lights, or bright colors ● Black, Brown, Tan, or Navy Dress Shoes, including “Sperry” style shoes.* ● Shoes must be flat and closed toed. ● Laces must be tied - NO BRIGHTLY COLORED OR PATTERNED LACES ● Younger students (Grades PK-3) may wear Velcro or easy-on/off shoes. ● Boots are not to be worn with the school uniform. When rain/snow boots are worn to school, uniform shoes must be brought for students to change into. ● Backless shoes, flip flops or slippers are never permitted. ● Fluorescent colored shoes are not permitted. ● Shoes may not be heeled more than one inch. ● Wheeled or light up shoes are not permitted. <p><i>*Tennis shoes are required on gym days.*</i></p>
Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hair should be neat, clean, and a natural color. Subtle highlights are permitted. ● Fad hairstyles are not permitted. ● Hair must NOT cover the eyes or face. ● Subtle hair accessories (i.e. clips, barrettes, hair ties, headbands, or small bows) are acceptable as long as they are in line with DMA's school colors (red, black, white, brown, navy, or school plaid) ● Excessively large bows or hair adornments are not acceptable. ● No bandanas or headscarves permitted. ● Headbands may not have cat ears, slogans, or any other type of adornment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hair should be neat, clean, and a natural color. ● Fad hairstyles are not permitted. ● Hair must not cover the eyebrows, reach the top of the shirt collar, or cover more than ½ or the ear. ● A <u>single</u>, inconspicuous hair-colored hair tie may be used to pull hair back to remain in compliance with the dress code. ● Mohawks, or hairstyles with designs, patterns, and lines are not permitted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any accessory that becomes a distraction to the learning process will be sent home and not be permitted to be worn again. 	
Jewelry/ Make-Up/ Accessories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small, tasteful posts or hoops earrings are permitted. No oversized hoops or dangly earrings are permitted. Bracelets, necklaces, watches and/or rings in moderation. Necklaces should be tucked inside uniform shirts. Necklaces, bracelets, and rings must be removed for gym class. Only subtle, natural make-up is permitted. No colored eye shadow, mascara, blush, or lipstick is permitted. Nails should be neat, cleaned and trimmed. Acrylic fingernails/tips should NOT be worn. Nail polish, if worn, should be modest and light in color. Belts are required in Navy, Brown, or Black for children in grades 4-8 if belt loops are present. No hats of any kind are to be worn in school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bracelets, watches, or religious necklaces or pendants are acceptable in moderation. Necklaces should be tucked inside uniform shirts. Boys are not permitted to wear makeup or nail polish of any kind. Belts are required in Navy, Brown, or Black for children in grades 4-8 if belt loops are present. No hats of any kind are to be worn in school.

Physical Education Uniform

All students in grades K-8 are to wear their gym uniform to school on the day they have physical education class. This schedule is announced prior to the start of school. For the 2023/2024 school year, students in the following grades will have physical education classes on Wednesdays: PreK, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8. Students in grades K, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, & 8 will have gym class on Thursdays. Students are not permitted to participate in physical education class without appropriate gym apparel. The gym uniform tops and bottoms (shorts/sweats) must be purchased through Log Cabin Embroidery. Additional gym dress code rules are:

- Only the specified gym shirts purchased through Log Cabin are permitted. These include short or long sleeved t-shirts in Red or Navy with DMA logo in either cotton or dri-fit. Other school shirts or Spirit Wear **are not** permitted to be worn for gym.
- Only the specified gym bottoms purchased through Log Cabin are permitted. These include cotton or mesh shorts in Navy with the DMA logo (**April 1st-Oct. 31st**) or jogger style sweatpants or wicking pants in Navy with DMA logo.
- As with the school uniform policy, gym shorts are only permitted from **April 1st - October 31st**.
- Necklaces, bracelets, and rings must not be worn in gym class.
- A DMA or Sabers crewneck sweatshirt or a DMA wicking or fleece jacket is **required** for gym from **November 1st - March 31st**. Only the specified sweatshirts and jackets purchased through Log Cabin are permitted. **NO HOODIES** are permitted to be worn.
- Tennis shoes must be worn on gym days.

School Liturgy Attire

A **DMA embroidered Navy Blue Polo**, purchased through Log Cabin Embroidery, is the REQUIRED uniform top for ALL students in grades K-8 for Friday morning school Masses as well as any other special liturgies or events (or other school activities directed by the principal). Required "church shirts" may be worn with dress pants, dress shorts (following time guidelines, or, for girls, uniform skirts or skorts. Jumpers are not to be worn.

Non-DMA jackets must be removed after entering church. No sweatshirts or hoodies are to be worn during Mass.

Dress Down Day Attire

Throughout the year, we will offer children free and fundraising Dress Down Days. Whatever students choose to wear must reflect our Catholic School values. Please make sure the following rules are followed:

- Attire must be clean, neat and modest.
- Nothing tight, cropped, low-cut, ripped, torn, oversized, or ragged may be worn.
- Only **long shorts** (no more than 3 inches above the knee) are permitted.
- Jeans, sweatpants and T-shirts are permitted.
- All shirts must have **sleeves that cover the entire shoulder**. Spaghetti straps are NOT permitted.
- T-shirts with inappropriate words, graphics, and/or logos are not permitted.
- If your child is wearing form-fitting jeans, stretch pants, leggings or yoga-style pants, a long top which comes down below the hips must be worn to cover the front and backside of the pants.
- Socks must be worn with shoes.
- No flip-flops, Crocs, or heeled shoes/boots are to be worn.
- Occasional themed Dress Down Days will be scheduled throughout the school year. In order for a student to participate, he/she must adhere to the theme. Otherwise, he/she is to wear the regular school uniform.
- Policies for hair, socks, makeup, shoes, etc. are in effect on Dress Down Days except in special circumstances as announced by the administration. Shorts may only be worn on Dress Down Days during the period of **April 1-October 31** unless otherwise indicated by the administration.
- In the event a Dress Down Day occurs on the student's designated Physical Education day, students must wear tennis shoes so that they may participate in Physical Education class.

If you have questions about whether your child is dressed appropriately, please call and ask.

Dress-Up Days

There will be times during the school year when students may be asked to dress up. Examples would be Picture Day, Holiday Programs, etc. Students are to wear **modest** attire equal in formality to the uniform or better. Shirts, dresses, skirts, pants, etc. in style and color different from the uniform code may be worn, however skirts/dresses must still adhere to the guidelines for length stated above. **NO** jeans, t-shirts, open toed shoes, flip flops, Crocs, hoodies, etc. are permitted to be worn on Dress Up Days.

Uniform Swap

As children grow, new uniforms will be needed. Please make sure that your child's uniform fits appropriately. If you find that pants and/or sleeves are getting a little too short, please let us know. We have extra clothes available which you can swap out with the uniform items which your child has outgrown. Watch for specific times where Uniform Swaps will be available.

Clothing Identification

Parents **MUST** mark their children's personal belongings with their names. Since children do not readily claim lost items, proper identification helps us to find the owner and save parents the cost of replacement. The "lost and found" articles are found in the main hallway. Students are encouraged to look for lost clothing and school items there. More valuable items, such as glasses, jewelry, watches, etc. are to be turned into the office. Periodically, all items at the "lost and found" will be displayed and students will be reminded to look for missing items. Notice will also be placed on occasional communications. Items that are not claimed by the end of each school year will be donated to a local charity.