
ST. THOMAS MORE STUDENT DRESS CODE

The concept of a dress policy has a long tradition in the Catholic Secondary School communities in Hamilton. The St. Thomas More community strongly supports this tradition. There are economic and practical advantages to support a school dress policy. The real advantage is that a dress policy supports the school's philosophy; namely, that each individual is unique and his/her richness comes from within and not from external appearance. We also believe that only through working together, learning together and praying together can we as individuals form a greater whole, our Catholic School community. Like a successful team which takes pride in its uniform, we at St. Thomas More take pride in our uniform, in each individual person and in our school community.

We have established a common dress policy, the specifics of which are listed on the pages that follow. While it is possible to list all that may be worn, it is not possible to address all the external trappings that some students might choose to adopt. Suffice it to say that any externals that are not in keeping with the spirit of the dress code will not be acceptable. Any questions or clarification will be addressed by a Vice-Principal.

EVERY STUDENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO BE IN FULL UNIFORM, WEARING ONLY UNIFORM ITEMS, WHILE IN SCHOOL THROUGHOUT EVERY DAY. OFFENDERS SHOULD EXPECT TO BE SENT HOME.

NOTE:

Items noted as STM uniform attire must have a school monogram and be purchased from the school's official supplier. The current supplier is:

Bombardieri Uniforms
460 Barton Street East
Hamilton, Ontario
L8L 2Y6
Phone: (905) 525-6684
Fax: (905) 525-5766
Web: WWW.BOMBARDIERI.CA (online shopping available)

GENERAL NOTES

1. All students are required to be neat, clean and presentable in their appearance; **shirts must be buttoned up to the second button. Pant legs are not to be rolled up or tucked into socks, shoes or boots, pant zippers and buttons must be fastened.** There are to be no rips or tears in any parts of clothing. This regulation applies to footwear also. Socks and/or tights must be worn at all times.
2. Students must be in compliance with the dress policy at all times before and during regular school hours including lunch and spares. Students not in compliance will be sent home or detained in the office.
3. Proper Dress Code compliant shoes are required, no SPORT SANDALS, FLIP-FLOPS, OPEN TOE SHOES, SLIPPERS, CROCS or BOOTS
4. **JEANS OF ANY COLOUR ARE NEVER PERMITTED** on any uniform days and exemptions will not be granted. Students will automatically be sent home for wearing jeans. **[PARENTS MAY NOT ASK FOR AN EXEMPTION ON "UNIFORM DAYS".]**
5. Garments not supplied by the uniform store for the past **four** years are not permitted (if unsure, check with a VP before wearing any item that is not on the current uniform list).
6. If a T-shirt must be worn underneath the STM top, only plain white or black short sleeved shirts are permitted.
7. Spirit wear or team or club wear are not part of the uniform, and are therefore not permitted on regular uniform days. Current school year team jerseys, club t-shirts and school spirit shirts may be worn only on designated spirit days. Students must wear uniform bottoms.
8. Students are not permitted any headwear (eg. Hats, caps, visors, durags, etc.) in a school setting. Headwear for religious purposes is permitted,
9. **UNIFORM SIZING**
Uniform items must be size appropriate – not too small nor too large. Undergarments shall not be exposed. Alterations to modify style (e.g. shirts taken in or pant legs tapered or slit) are not permitted.
10. **BACKPACKS**
Bags and purses are to be secured in students' lockers and are not to be brought to class.
11. **CIVVIES DAYS** – "Civvies" days may be granted occasionally. On these days, students may only wear appropriate clothing. At no time are students to wear clothes with graphics promoting unacceptable lifestyles or inappropriate or derogatory comments, (e.g. alcohol, drugs, sex, etc.) hats, halter-tops, midriff baring tops, tank tops, spandex, shorts, or shorts, or similar inappropriate clothing. Where clothing is deemed to be inappropriate for our Catholic school by a school administrator, the student will be required to change or will be sent home.
12. **OUTERWEAR**
Outerwear, including work boots, hats, coats, spring/winter jackets, sweat shirts, non-uniform sweaters, etc. are not permitted in classrooms or anywhere in the school. These items should not be carried from class to class.
13. **INCLEMENT WEATHER / WINTER MONTHS**
 - i) **SWEATERS:** if students need a **SWEATER** for warmth it **MUST BE AN STM UNIFORM SWEATER.** All other sweaters are to be placed in the locker upon arrival to school, until the end of the school day.
 - ii) **WINTER COATS/JACKETS:** may be CARRIED during lunch period in the CAFETERIA and in the LOWER FORUM only (not in the servery). This is based on the recognition that students often go outside during lunch. A winter jacket may be worn to and from a portable.
14. **FIELD TRIPS**
The school dress policy is in effect for field trips, unless, due to the nature of the trip, a pre-authorized exemption is made by the organizing teacher in conjunction with administrative approval.

15. PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

Students enrolled in Physical Education classes are required to wear the gym uniform which consists of a STM T-shirt, and STM shorts. An optional grey sweat pant and sweat shirt are available.

16. EXAMINATION DAYS

All regular school uniform rules apply during exam times.

17. THE SPIRIT OF DRESS CODE

While it is possible to list all that may be worn, it is not possible to address all the external apparel that some students might choose to adopt; this includes chains, jewellery (especially facial piercings), adornments, spiked bracelets /necklaces, excessive make-up, etc. Excessive facial piercings are discouraged and may be addressed by the school administration. Chains and necklaces must be worn beneath the shirt. Suffice it to say that any externals not in keeping with the spirit of the uniform code as judged by the school administration will not be acceptable.

18. REQUIRED CLOTHING ITEMS

The items of clothing designated as "Required" are the items that a student must have in order to comply with the dress policy.

APPROVED DRESS CODE REQUIRED

Shirts

Polo shirts or Rugger shirts are required. All shirts must be buttoned to the second button from the top. Should it be necessary to wear a T-shirt beneath your STM top, **only a plain** white or black short or long sleeve T-shirt tucked in will be permitted.

STM Black Pants

Zippers and buttons must be fastened. Uniform pants may not have frayed bottoms, split inseams, flared tailored panels inserted or tapered leg. Must be embroidered with school logo from supplier.

Shoes with Pants

Running shoes, dark coloured dress shoes, or dress boots (not work boots) without adornments, laced up with the pant leg fully draped over the boot and/or shoe. All footwear must have closed toes and heels.

Socks with Pants/Shorts

Socks must be worn at the ankle or higher at all times.

STM Walking Shorts

Walking shorts may not be rolled up and must be no shorter than 3 inches (8 cm) above the knee.

Shoes with Shorts

Running shoes or dark coloured closed toe, closed heel dress shoes, cut below the ankle may be worn.

Approved STM Outwear

All items must be worn overtop a collared shirt. Students must purchase one of the following: STM Cardigan, STM Zippered Jacket or STM Zipper Full Sweatshirt.

Kilt

To be hemmed within 4" of the knee. It is recommended that enough material be left for future lengthening

Tights with Kilts

The solid black tights are required.

Shoes with Kilts/Shorts

Running shoes or dark coloured dress shoes cut below the ankle, with no more that a 1-1/2" heel and no adornments are permitted. Boots of any kind are not permitted with the kilt or short. Soft bottom ballet flat style shoes are not permitted.

Phys. Ed. Requirements

Phys. Ed. T-Shirt & Shorts ***Garments purchased for Phys. Ed. or Dance may **not** be worn as "regular" dress code. Phys. Ed. Uniforms are to be purchased from the Phys. Ed. department.

Optional for Phys. Ed.

Phys. Ed. Sweatshirt/Sweatpants

Phys. Ed./Dance Joggers: Must be grey for all students.

Masks

Students are to provide their own masks and must be worn as directed by Public Health, the Ministry of Education and the HWCDSB. Masks must be appropriate for a Catholic School Setting. Inappropriate words, images, etc on masks will not be permitted. Failure to comply will lead to the student being sent home for the day.