

March 22, 2017



Dear GTACS families,

As educators, our goal is to provide an educational atmosphere permeated with respect and dignity, free from distractions, and worthy of the sacrifice made by GTACS families and parishes. Attire is an important component of our educational environment.

In November, we announced that we would be conducting a review of our uniform policy and dress code, and sought input from GTACS parents, faculty/staff, pastors and other stakeholders. Next, a GTACS committee comprised of parents, teachers and administrators was formed, and those representatives held a great number of meetings to assimilate the feedback and evaluate options.

After thorough discussion and consideration, here are the uniform/dress code changes that have been decided upon for next year:

SINGLE SUPPLIER

Standardization of style is essential for unity, modesty and effective enforcement. **Beginning in fall 2017, uniforms will need to be sourced from a single supplier.** After interviewing a variety of vendors, Dennis Uniform has been selected to replace Lands' End as our apparel supplier. They will be the **only** approved vendor for GTACS uniforms, which will make enforcement of the dress code more straightforward.

- Dennis, a third-generation, family-owned business, is highly regarded for their selection, quality, and customer service.
- Items are designed to fit and flatter different body types while promoting modesty
- On average, Dennis Uniform items were found to be less expensive than Lands' End.
- Unlike Lands' End, which embroiders items when ordered, Dennis will pre-make items based on our anticipated forecast, to reduce backorders and improve turnaround times.
- Dennis has a company store in Auburn Hills where they will have all GTACS items on-hand for shipment and/or in-person shopping.
- There will be a "fitting day" here in May (date to be announced) so that families can review the available items and make decisions regarding sizing. Additional fitting days will be scheduled.

SIMPLIFIED, CONSISTENT COLORS

To promote our school identity and provide for a more seamless transition between school buildings, we are moving toward a simpler, consistent palette of colors. Again, Dennis Uniform will be the exclusive provider, so colors, fabric and styles will be the same for all students. A new plaid will be used throughout all grade levels. Students in grades K-5 will wear white shirts, students in grades 6-8 may wear white or navy shirts, and students in grades 9-12 may wear white, navy or yellow shirts. Burgundy will not be carried forward at

the middle school and pink, light blue and royal will not be carried forward in the high school.

LOGOS

A Dennis Uniform shirt or jumper costs the same with or without a logo, which gives us the opportunity to make a valuable improvement to our uniform policy: Effective in fall 2017, all new shirts will be logoed. To ensure consistency, other/local suppliers will no longer be permitted to apply the GTACS or SF logo to items to be worn at school. Other suppliers will be authorized to embroider non-uniform items (e.g., gym bags, hats).

PHASE-OUT PERIOD – SELECT ITEMS ONLY

Tops (shirts, sweaters) that are acceptable now will be acceptable for the next school year. That includes polos in colors that are not being carried forward (burgundy in the middle school and pink, light blue and royal at the high school). For next year, shirts/tops will not have to be logoed, except at the high school. If you order a new shirt/top from Dennis, though, it will come logoed. The current Lands' End plaid skirts, skorts or navy blue jumpers may be worn next year, but will NOT be allowed in fall 2018. Current pants will not be allowed.

A WORD ABOUT PANTS

Every pair of Dennis-made pants has a unique label on it. Next year, pants without that label will not be allowed at school. This provides an easy, effective way for faculty and staff to fairly enforce the uniform policy. The Dennis pants will be offered in several styles.

ONLINE STORE

A catalog of approved items and an online store will be up and running soon. When it is complete, we will provide you with the link so that you can begin purchasing items from that source.

Thank you for your input regarding student attire. Please help us continue to improve our school environment by helping us make the transition to a more unified dress code, one that will be easy to understand and adhere to, and one that will reflect the excellence for which our Catholic schools are known.

Christ above all things,

Erick Chittle

On behalf of the GTACS Dress Code Committee