UNIFORM CODE *2026-27*

WHY A UNIFORM?

Gillingham Charter School is a relational Charlotte Mason public school; thus, Gillingham implements a simple uniform code to support the atmosphere, discipline and life of our relational school since a uniform supports the following:

- Fosters a safe, orderly environment
- Helps students to "code switch" to our rich, rigorous learning environment
- Nurtures professionalism, preparing students for the workplace
- Reduces distractions
- Reduces the stress of wearing the "right clothes" or name brands to fit in
- Fosters a sense of "team" and inspires school pride and identity, uniting the student body through dress just like a team

Infractions: Parents will be contacted when their child is out of uniform to amend the situation immediately by bringing in the correct clothes so that the child can go back to class. The code of conduct's consequences will be followed concerning uniform infractions.

TOPS

All tops, except sweaters, must be tucked in. All tops must be free of non-GCS logos and appropriately fitted per discretion of GCS Faculty/Staff. Students may wear black tops or black pants but not black on black.
Uniform code shirts w/GCS embroidery can be purchased from our school store, the GCS Wolfpack Rack. Directions are at the bottom.

- **Plain Polo Shirt** *(short & long sleeve)*
  (no logos, patterns/prints except for GCS embroidered patch; black, gray, or white; short or long sleeve)
- **Plain White, Gray or Black Oxford or Peter Pan Collar Shirt** *(short & long sleeve)*
- **Plain Gray or Black Sweater/Sweater Vest/Fleece or the Gillingham Crew Neck Sweatshirt**
  (no logos, no hoodies, no Gillingham hoodie for daily uniform, no crew neck sweatshirts unless Gillingham crew neck, all properly fitted)
- **White, Black or Gray Undershirts** *(worn under sweaters as well)*
- **Black Blazer** *(worn with oxford/peter pan shirts or polos)*
- **Gillingham Athletic Wear or School Crewneck Sweatshirt (not the G hoodie)**
  (*needs to be approved by Student Coach; shirts tucked in; no black on black)*
- **Black, Silver, Gray &/or White Tie**
  (this is optional…plain or combos of black, silver, gray &/or white tie; to be worn with the shirts, not polos)

BOTTOMS

All pants and shorts should be appropriately fitted; no jeans, cargo, jegging/yoga pant material, side zippers/loops/strings.
All bottoms are no shorter than 3 inches from the knee. All bottoms must be free of logos.

- **Tan, Khaki, Black Pants & Bermuda Shorts w/Belt Loops**
  (No jeans; no shorter than 3 inches from the knee, black tops are not allowed with black bottoms.)
- **Tan or Black Khaki Skirt K-12th**
  (no shorter than 3 inches from the knee; wear w/black or gray shorts or leggings underneath; uniform pants material, appropriately fitted)
  ****Black tops are not allowed with black bottoms.*
- **Tan, Black, Gray Khaki Knee Length Jumper or Polo Knee Length Dress**
  (no shorter than 3 inches from the knee; wear w/black or gray shorts or leggings underneath)
- **Black, Brown, or Gray Belt**
  (required - plain w/small buckle for pants, shorts and skirts with belt loops, K-2 don't have to have a belt if it's too difficult for them)

FOOTWEAR

- **Shoes**
  - Must be all black or mostly black. ***If this proves too difficult, simply notify the Student Coach to find solutions.***
  - If the shoe is not primarily black, the student will be required to wear different shoes.
  - Rubber soles are best because children play outside A LOT at Gillingham.
  - Recommended styles are as follows: black oxfords, penny loafers, Mary Janes, t-straps, sneakers
  - These are not allowed: crocs, boots, flip flops, slippers, moccasins, high heels, soles over 2", colored studs/buckles
  - Winter boots may be worn to and from school to be worn outside, but they are not worn inside. Students change into their black uniform shoes.
- **White or Black Socks/Tights** (plain/solid; short & knee highs)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

K-2nd: They wear black or mostly black sneakers on PE days. They do **not have** required gym clothes. They wear their uniform during PE.
3rd-12th: They are required to come to school wearing the required gym uniform (below) on PE days.

REQUIRED for P.E. classes (grades 3-12)

- **Gillingham Gym T-Shirt** *Purchase from the school's store. No plain T-shirts.*
  Must be all black or mostly black. ***If this proves too difficult, simply notify the Student Coach to find solutions.***
- **Gillingham Gym Shorts** *Purchase from the school's store. No plain shorts.*
- **Tennis Shoes, Sneakers, High Tops** *Athletic shoe of any color and style is permitted.*
- **White or Black Socks** *Solid and plain*

OPTIONAL for P.E. classes (grades 3-12)

- **Any "G-Wear" Shirt/Hoodie/Sweatshirt/Sweatpants**
- **Plain Gray Sweatshirt/Hoodie/Sweatshirt** *(no logo)*
- **Plain Black or Gray Sweatpants/Joggers** *(no logo, no yoga pants, tight pants, leggings or tights)*

ACCESSORIES

To help promote professionalism to prepare students for the workplace and life after school, students are not allowed to wear facial piercings, show tattoos, dye hair in unnatural hair colors, and keep their hair in their eyes. Jewelry must be minimal & kept small for safety reasons. Dime size or smaller piercings allowed. Inside, students may not wear hats, scarves, gloves, fishnet, lace, or legwarmers. No buttons, bandanas, chains, or anything that can be misconstrued as gang-related or detrimental for outdoor living and play. Simple headbands only to maintain professionalism (no animal ears, costume headbands, etc., which are distractions). For student and school safety, 7-12 students are not allowed to wear hoodies on their heads outside while under GCS supervision.

FACE MASKS

When the school mandates masks or if a child chooses to wear a mask, the following rules for wearing face masks are in accordance with the school's Health and Safety Plan and keep distractions to a minimum. Students must wear masks correctly, covering both mouth and nose.

Students choose from the Gillingham Mask or these options:

- PLAIN MASK – in one of the following colors: black, silver, gray, white
- MEDICAL MASK – which is typically blue

RECITAL WEAR

A dress code for recitals/performances will be sent home prior to each event held at Gillingham if special attire is required. If the dress code is not followed at the event, it may affect the student's ability to participate, and a uniform violation will be assigned.

FIRST FRIDAYS & DRESS DOWN DAYS

The entire Gillingham community (students, faculty, staff) will DRESS DOWN on the 1st Friday of every month, and sometimes special dress down days occur for various reasons. Dress down attire needs to be respectful & modest, representing the values of the Gillingham name in such ways as follows: *no vulgar, rude, defamatory messages; no rips; no visible undies; no spaghetti straps; no pajamas; no undue attention to one's body; no shorts/skirts/dresses shorter than 3 inches from the knees; hats taken off during class/presentations, no hoods worn on head, etc.*

HEALTH & HYGIENE

Students at Gillingham are required to maintain healthy habits of living and hygiene. We require the following:

- Students are not allowed to write on themselves. It is a uniform code violation.
- Students who demonstrate a lack of personal cleanliness (body, hair, odor, clothes) that constitutes a health hazard or learning distraction will be referred to the social worker. The social worker will follow protocol by calling the parents and by *discussing hygiene with students, providing hygienic products and instructions on proper use, and creating a plan for student hygiene success.* If the problem persists, the student will then be referred to the Student Coach.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS

For religious exemptions to the uniform code, submit a written request and explanation to the Director of Education.