



## Harding Academy Lower School Dress Code Guidelines and Grid 2025-26 Grade SK-5

The purpose of the dress code and of uniforms at Harding Academy is to create a climate that focuses on students' spiritual, academic, and personal growth rather than on fashion or popularity. Parents are asked to monitor what their children wear to school in a manner consistent with the school's policies.

Members of the faculty and administration have the responsibility to counsel and advise students on matters of appearance. Teachers and principals make every effort to carry out this responsibility with discretion so the student will not be embarrassed. A student wearing something to school that is inappropriate will be instructed not to wear it again and parents will be notified. Any student who is uncooperative in complying with school standards of appearance may be asked to make an immediate adjustment. Students whose dress code violations are not handled in a timely manner, as determined by the principal, will not be permitted to return to school.

While it is impossible to name every possible dress code issue that might come up, the following guidelines are given to help parents and students have an idea of the school's expectations. To help maintain these standards, students will wear clothing from the school's approved list. Uniform attire must be modest, clean, well-fitted, and in good condition.

Fridays are designated as Spirit Days. Students may wear any Harding-logo t-shirt or sweatshirt (team, club, event) that says "Harding" on it, that is in good condition, and that is worn with the normal uniform bottoms or modest jeans in good condition (no holes, rips, patches, or paint), approved Harding outerwear, and uniform shoes. Jeans shorts may not be worn. Shirts do not have to be tucked in on Spirit Day.

### Uniform Guidelines

- Outerwear: Only Harding outerwear (coats, jackets, sweatshirts, etc.) may be worn in the classroom. Outerwear purchased from other vendors may only be worn to school, on the playground, and at dismissal - but not in the classroom. Every student must wear a collared uniform shirt or blouse under jackets, sweatshirts, and sweaters.
- Shoes: Shoes must be low heel (flats), closed toe, and closed heel. No boots, booties, sandals, moccasins, or house shoes are permitted. Children should wear or bring athletic shoes for daily P.E.
- Socks: Socks must be visible and matching, but the color, pattern, or style of socks is not dictated.
- Tights and Leggings: Girls' tights or full-length leggings may not be worn as pants. Tights and full-length leggings may be solid navy, black, or gray, and must be in good condition (no holes).
- Shirts/Polo dresses: All shirts and polo dresses must either be from prior years or the Harding Spirit Store. All boys' shirts must be tucked in. No long sleeved shirts may be worn under short sleeved uniform shirts or polo dresses.
- Peter Pan collared blouses: These white blouses for girls may be worn only with the plaid shift dress.
- Khaki Pants and Shorts: Traditional khaki pants and shorts may be purchased from any vendor (pleated or plain front). No cargo pants, cargo shorts, or joggers are allowed.
- Belts: Belts must be worn in grades 1-5 when loops are visible. They must be solid black, brown, khaki, or black and brown. Black or brown belts with small team logos are permissible.
- Undergarments: Undergarments may not show outside or through shirts or blouses.
- Modesty Shorts: Modesty shorts are required under dresses and skirts unless tights or leggings are worn. Shorts may not be visible outside of the skirt.
- Hem Lengths: Boys' shorts and girls' jumpers, skirts, skorts, polo dresses, and shorts must be no more than three inches (3") from the top of the knee, both front and back, whether standing, sitting, or bending.

### Non-uniform Guidelines

- Hats, hoods, and caps may not be worn indoors.
- Hair must be clean and neatly styled and not extreme or distracting to the learning environment. Unnatural hair coloring, mohawks, long sideburns, shaved heads, facial hair, artwork or designs cut into the hair or eyebrows, and overly large or tall hairstyles are not allowed.
- Hair must be styled in such a way that it is out of the eyes during the school day. Hair may be pulled back with a headband or worn in a bun, ponytail, or braid(s) with appropriate hair accessories: only Harding plaid, navy, red, white, black, or gray. Adornments such as feathers and sparkles may not be worn.
- Body piercing is not permitted, other than girls' ears (maximum of two earrings per ear).
- Boys may not wear earrings.
- Makeup and body glitter are not permitted for girls during the school day.
- Boys may not wear makeup either during the school day or at extracurricular events.
- Girls may wear small pieces of jewelry including wristwatches, small earrings (no larger than a quarter), and small necklaces. Bracelets must be limited to the width of a watchband.
- Visible tattoos (real or fake), writing, or drawings on the skin, shoes, or on uniform pieces is not permitted.
- There may be occasions, during the school day or at school-sponsored events, when students will be permitted to wear clothing other than uniforms. On these occasions, clothing must be modest, neat, clean, appropriately fitted, in good condition, and in keeping with the principles of a Christian school.
- **Note for the 2025-26 school year**: Uniform pieces purchased from prior years or new uniform pieces from the school store are allowed for the 2025-26 school year. Any Harding outerwear will be allowed in the classroom for the 2025-26 school year. Beginning August 2026, only uniform pieces purchased from the school store will be permitted. Also beginning August 2026, hoodies and other spirit outerwear will not be permitted during the school day Monday through Thursday.

<b>Items for Girls</b>	<b>Previous Uniform</b>	<b>School Store</b>	<b>Any Vendor</b>
Peter Pan collared blouse-long or short sleeved (worn only under plaid)	X		
Plaid shift dress (Sk-gr.5)	X		
Plaid skort (Sk-gr.5)	X		
Plaid pleated skirt (Sk-gr.5)	X		
Plaid skirt with built-in shorts		X	
Navy/red jersey Polo dress (as fit allows)	X		
Royal Polo dress (SK-gr.5 as fit allows)		X	
Modesty shorts (must be worn under any skirt or dress)-solid navy or black	X		X
Cardigan sweater (monogrammed) - red	X		
Polo shirts (monogrammed) - navy/red from Dennis, white from resale, long sleeved, feminine/standard cut, jersey/performance fabric	X		
Polo shirts (monogrammed) - royal or black		X	
Sweatshirt (monogrammed) - navy	X		
Fleece jacket (monogrammed) - navy	X		
Anorak jacket (monogrammed) - navy	X		
Hair accessories - Harding plaid	X		
Socks (must be visible and matching)			X
Tights - solid navy, white, black or grey			X
Leggings - solid navy, white, black or grey			X
Khaki pants (SK only may wear pull on pants)			X
Khaki walking shorts (Sk only may wear pull on shorts)			X
Harding team or club jacket in school colors (navy, red, gray, white, or black)			X
Belt - khaki, black, brown or black/brown (gr.1-5)			X
Hair accessories - solid navy, red, white, black, or gray			X
Shoes - low heel, closed toe, closed heel			X
<b>Items for Boys</b>			
Polo shirts (monogrammed) - navy/red from Dennis, white from resale, long/short sleeved, jersey/performance fabric	X		
Polo shirts (monogrammed) - royal or black		X	
Cardigan sweater vest (monogrammed) - red	X		
Fleece jacket (monogrammed) - navy	X		
Anorak jacket (monogrammed) - navy	X		
Harding team jacket in school colors ( navy, red, gray, white, or black)	X		
Sweatshirt (monogrammed) - navy	X		
Khaki pants (SK only may wear pull on pants)			X
Khaki walking shorts (Sk only may wear pull on shorts)			X
Belt - khaki, black, brown or black/brown (gr.1-5)			X
Socks (must be visible and matching)			X
Shoes - low heel, closed toe, closed heel			X