

## St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and School

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June 15, 2016

Dear Parents:

The St. Thomas School Advisory Board, as well as Father Ben Hadrich and Principal Dawn Flesland, would like to inform you more about the uniform policy that we will begin transitioning to next year. **During the 2016-17 school year, students will be wearing uniforms on Thursdays (Mass days) throughout the school year.** During the 2017-18 school year, we will ask students to wear uniforms everyday (we will have some non-uniform special days during the year).

As leaders in your Catholic school, we want to thank you for your support of Catholic education. Planning for our future is an important part of our work and already we are beginning to lay the groundwork for our next school year. Over the past several years a number of educators and parents of Catholic school children have suggested the adoption of uniforms for our school. All of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Duluth have a uniform policy in place already. We are the final school to adopt this policy.

The reasons for this change are: First, uniforms reflect as the word suggests - unity shared by being enrolled in a Catholic school. This unity respects the diversity of our students while emphasizing our dignity as children of God empowered by the Spirit. We want our young people to learn to view themselves by what is on the inside rather than by what they are wearing on the outside.

Second, uniforms tell children where they are: in school and that school is "business". The Elementary Division of the National Catholic Education Association assures us that uniforms help create an atmosphere conducive to learning, which is the "business" of the school. It is our conviction that uniforms will promote a better learning environment for the students our Catholic schools serve.

Third, uniforms make economic sense in that parents need not feel pressured to succumb to the latest fad in clothing, which is often expensive and too soon out of style. A uniform helps put everyone on the same level. We want to create the best possible environment for students in our Catholic school to learn and grow in faith.

Please find the specifics of our uniform policy attached. We are convinced that the positive implementation of this policy can contribute to the unity and communion we are invited to celebrate as Christian people. I thank you for your support and participation in the mission of Catholic education, as we continue its excellent tradition into the twenty-first century.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Principal Dawn Flesland

Father Ben Hadrich

# St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Uniform Guidelines

## Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students may choose from a variety of options in order to be appropriately dressed for school:

### **Shirts – Navy, Red or White**

Students may wear plain collar, button up, polo, turtleneck, or mock turtlenecks. All shirts are acceptable in long and short sleeve. Shirts with shirrtails must be tucked in; straight hem shirts may be left untucked. Belts are preferred but not required.

### **Pants, shorts, skirts and shorts – Khaki or Navy only**

Students may wear long pants, twill khakis, Capri's, skorts, skirts, jumpers or shorts as long as they are no more than 2 inches above knees or longer and are not torn or in any way in disrepair. Shorts may be worn in September and May only and not on Mass days. Belts preferred, but not required.

### **Plaid jumpers, skirts or skorts – Khaki or Plaid**

These plaid jumpers must match Land's End color "Hunter/Classic Navy Plaid". All skirts, skorts or shorts must be no more than 2 inches above the knee or longer.

### **Sweatshirts and Sweaters – True Red or Navy**

Students may wear solid plain sweaters, zip-up, vest or pullover, with or without embroidered logo. Students may wear solid plain sweatshirts, zip-up, cardigan, button down or pullover with or without embroidered logo. Sweatshirts and sweaters must be worn with a white shirt as described above.

**Socks, tights and hair accessories** - Socks are required. Socks, tights and accessories should be red, white, navy, plaid (see above) or khaki.

**Shoes** - Shoes must have a strap, no flip-flops. Socks, tights or other hosiery must be worn with all shoes.

## » FAQs

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### **When does this begin?**

Students will begin wearing the uniform to school on Thursdays during the 2016-17 school year. The policy will be expanded to everyday starting in the 2017-18 school year.

### **Do I have to purchase clothes from Land's End?**

Land's End will be our preferred vendor; however you may purchase clothing elsewhere as long as the colors match the swatches provided by the school.

### **How will this policy be enforced?**

Teachers will complete a uniform violation form for students inappropriately dressed. Students may be asked to change into clothing available at the school closet.

### **What if students aren't "in policy"?**

The first violation will result in a note to the parents and a discussion with the student. Parents will be contacted after the second violation and child will be asked to change into uniform (if sizes are available in our clothing store). The third time, parents will be asked to bring appropriate clothing to school for their child.

### **» Where to buy**

**Land's End School Uniform – [www.landsend.com/school](http://www.landsend.com/school)**

**Our Preferred School # is 900175886 (will launch by June 15<sup>th</sup>)**

**Donald's – [www.donaldsuniform.com](http://www.donaldsuniform.com)**

**Kohl's - Uniform pieces available in the fall.**

**Target Stores – Uniform pieces available in the fall.**

# SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL 900175886

Lands' End: your school uniform source.

**Online:** Go to [landsend.com/school](http://landsend.com/school) and create or sign in to your account. Include your student and school information in My Account (or find your School using the Preferred School Number Search: 900175886). Start shopping with your personalized product checklist.

Shop now via the direct link:

<http://www.landsend.com/pp/SchoolSearch.html?action=landing&selectedSchoolNum=900175886>

**Phone:** Call 1-800-469-2222 and reference your student's Preferred School Number 900175886, grade level and gender. Our team of consultants are available 24/7 for assistance.

Don't forget to sign up on [landsend.com/school](http://landsend.com/school)  
for email updates from Lands' End.

**SCHOOL**  
**OUTFITTERS**  
**BY LANDS' END**

800-469-2222 • [landsend.com/school](http://landsend.com/school)