

Dear Parents and Students,

We have had an unusual week with not just one but TWO tag days!!!! While this has been a fun way to celebrate our local Washington Nationals success and be rewarded for supporting a school fundraiser, it has also brought to light some confusion regarding the OLSS dress Code.

The Dress Code was developed with our Catholic values of unity, modesty, simplicity in mind. The dress code has remained relatively unchanged over the past 15 years that I have been a teacher at OLSS; however its enforcement (or lack thereof) has fluctuated. Despite its lack of enforcement, the reasons for the Dress Code remain. As I stated at Back to School Night, I feel that it is best for all of our students (Pre-K – 8) to be held accountable for all rules in our Parent/Student Handbook.

It is essential to instill the importance of following rules in our children. The attitude of “this doesn't apply to me” or “I can do whatever I want because I want to” does not seem to be beneficial regardless of whom you are or what your position may be. Additionally, as a Catholic school, we sometimes must not be followers of society, but conduct ourselves as followers of Christ. Our bodies are temples of the Lord and we must always present ourselves as such.

This being said, I would like to reference particular sections of the handbook that seem to be the **most violated**. (Please see pages 13 – 15 for the complete Dress Code regulations)

- Sweatshirts: **only an OLSS gym sweatshirt** may be worn over the uniform
- Shirts must be long enough to be tucked in ...**and must be tucked in at all times**
- Shorts, skirts and skorts must be **no less than two inches above the knee** **Shorts must be knee length**
- Jeans, pants with rivets, and stretch pants are not permitted
- Navy blue or white **knee-high sock or tights** must be worn with jumpers and skirts and skorts
- Navy blue or white **fold over socks (no logos)** must be worn with pants or shorts
- **All white** or **All black** sneakers are worn with the Summer and P.E. Uniform
- A simple chain necklace with a cross or religious medal as well as a watch may be worn (**no bracelets**)
- Girls only may wear only **ONE STUD** earring per ear (No dangling earring are allowed)
- Make-up, nail polish, artificial nails, and hair dye (**including highlighting and streaking**) are not permitted. Boys' hair must be trimmed above the eyebrows and kept at collar length. No Mohawks or shaved hairstyles are allowed.

TAG DAYS Tops must be long enough to tuck in easily and cover the shoulders. Cleavage must not be visible at any time. No tank tops, spaghetti strap tops or crop tops allowed.

Jeans or pants must fit properly. **Leggings worn as pants, skinny jeans, and pajama bottoms are not allowed. THIS IS NOT A NEW RULE AND IS ENFORCED FOR THE SAKE OF MODESTY.** Leggings may be worn under dresses, fingertip length shirts, or knee length skirts.

Dresses must be **no less than 2 inches above the knee**. Pants must sit at the student's waist.

The Principal has the final recourse as to whether or not clothing is appropriate.

Thank you in advance for your support and compliance.