

GIA Uniform Policy

Private and College Preparatory schools typically require students to adhere to a uniform policy in the belief that school uniforms are a student's professional attire. Uniforms and policies regarding jewelry, hair, and makeup are intended to promote school spirit, minimize distractions, create a sense of fairness, and positively affect school climate. At GIA we encourage students to focus upon developing their skills and ethics rather than emphasizing material effects. We urge students to compete in appropriate arenas such as academics, fine arts, and sports, and to express their individualism via art, rhetoric, and interpersonal skills. Please note that GIA respects students' religious customs and permits students to wear yarmulkes, hijabs, topi caps, etc. **To schedule an appointment to purchase uniforms, please contact Annelise Edwards at edwards@georgetowninternationalacademy.org or by calling the main office at 225-8347 or 226-1595.**

Footwear GIA's office does not sell footwear, thus parents are responsible for acquiring footwear for their children that meets our requirements. For safety purposes, students must wear close-toed, flat shoes, with a rubber or other non-skid sole. These may include rain boots when appropriate. Students must wear sneakers, track shoes, or court shoes during physical education classes and activities. Students are not permitted to wear shoes with skate wheels on school property or any school-sponsored event. Sandals, flip-flops, and similar footwear are not permitted unless the student has an injury or condition that requires special consideration. In such cases, the parent must present written notification to Student Advisor, Ms. Reuven.

Clothing Uniform tops and bottoms must be purchased through GIA's business office. Students must wear tops that have the school's logo. Every student is required to own a red GIA polo shirt for field trips and a white button-down GIA shirt for formal occasions such as the graduation and awards ceremony. Students are not permitted to wear jackets or sweaters in class other than those bearing the school's logo.

Lab Attire For safety purposes all students in Grades 6-12 must adhere to the following regulations when doing science labs:

- Long pants and closed shoes are required
- Lab coats are required. Note: lab coats must be made of cotton or cotton blend fabric since 100% polyester can melt and burn the skin. Uniforms and lab coats must fit the student appropriately. Loose clothing and coats can brush against Bunsen burners or chemicals whereas clothing that is too tight does not provide the space for a protective small air layer
- Long hair must be tied back in a ponytail and medium length hair must be pinned back and secured properly.
- Watches and small earrings may allowed depending on the type of lab, but may not be worn as they present a potential burn hazard

Grooming Students are expected to emphasize safety, respect, neatness, and consideration of others. Thus, students are required to adhere to the following rules:

- For safety purposes, students' hair should be kept out of their eyes. During PE classes and science labs, long hair must be tied in a ponytail.
- Uniforms must have a tailored fit, i.e. trousers must not be low slung nor tight, tops must not be skintight, undergarments must not be visible, etc. Uniforms should be replaced when they become faded, stained, or torn.
- Parents are expected to ensure that their children practice excellent hygiene habits that include regular bathing and dental habits, as well as the age appropriate use of antiperspirant and feminine hygiene products.
- Any jewelry or cosmetics that a student might wear must be minimal and non-distracting. Students will be required to wash off heavy colognes and visible eye makeup. Jewelry is limited to watches, small earrings, moderate chains or pendants, and/or small bracelets that do not make noise.
- On school property or at school-sponsored events, students are not permitted to have bags, folders, attire, jewelry or any other item that promotes drug, alcohol or tobacco use, violence, discrimination, sex, etc.

Policy enforcement Student Advisor, Ms. Reuven, is responsible for enforcing GIA's uniform policy. She is the person to whom parents and students should pose questions regarding uniforms, appropriate footwear, or grooming expectations. Interpretation of the uniform policies are at Ms. Reuven's discretion and her decisions will be final.

Consequences

- Students who arrive at school out of uniform will be given a new uniform to change into and their parents will be invoiced.
- Students who arrive at school in footwear that does not meet our safety requirements will sit in the office until their parents can bring appropriate footwear for them to change into
- Students who do not adhere to grooming expectations will be handled by Ms. Reuven on a case-by-case basis.

Exceptions In rare cases, Ms. Reuven may grant a student a short- or long-term exception to one of the uniform rules. Parents (not students) must make requests for exceptions directly to Ms. Reuven. Please note that in such cases parents are required to supply their children with clothing that matches the school's uniform as closely as possible. Grounds for an exception include:

- Medical conditions that are exacerbated by close-toed footwear. (Doctor's note required)
- Skin allergies or conditions that limit students to wearing specially treated fabrics. (Doctor's note required)
- Physical conditions that make it difficult for the student to button and unbutton trousers
- Religious tenets that require specific codes of dress

Please note that all students who are new to GIA will receive an automatic one-week grace period before being required to adhere to the uniform policy.