



## UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

### PHILOSOPHY

At Deer Lake School, we practice Habit 3 - Put First Things First: “I spend my time on things that are most important”. We believe that having a uniform makes getting ready simple and easy for parents/caregivers and our students so they can focus on bringing their best to school every day. We want our students to have a consistent, professional, simple appearance and not have to worry about trends, what other people are wearing and how much it might cost etc.

A uniform policy enhances a dynamic learning experience, inspires confidence and nurtures the intellectual and social development necessary for success in a future career environment.

We want to prepare students for a successful future while making them as successful as possible in their day-to-day learning experience.

Our code of conduct asks students to: “carry yourself with respect and wear your uniform with pride.”

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

All students are expected to wear:

- All-black shoes
  - Shoes must be well-fitting
  - K-3 should wear black runners only, to support growing foot development and the movement involved in active learning
- Black socks/tights
  - Knee socks or tights should be worn with tunics, kilts, and skorts
- Cambridge-supplied bottom options
  - K-4: Tartan tunic, grey skort, grey shorts, grey dress pants
  - 5-7: Tartan kilt, grey skort, grey shorts, grey dress pants
  - 8-9: Tartan kilt, grey skort, grey shorts, grey dress pants
  - 10-12: Tartan kilt, grey skort, grey shorts, grey dress pants
- DLS-branded short or long-sleeve shirt tucked in
  - K-7: Navy
  - 8-10: White
- Additional sweater, vest, blazer or other approved outerwear options as appropriate. Every student must have either a sweater, cardigan, blazer or sweater vest for performances, picture day, and other formal uniform-required events.
  - K-9: Burgundy
  - 10-12: Navy

## GYM STRIP & DLS FALCON UNIFORM

Grades 4-7 will wear gym strip either the morning or afternoon of each day a PE class is scheduled and will change at lunchtime. Students are expected to wear:

- Burgundy t-shirt with school logo
- Navy shorts with school logo
- Black socks
- Runners only
  - Ballet slides, dress shoes, or boots are NOT acceptable for PE

*Optional cold-weather choice:*

- Sweatpants and hooded sweatshirt (only to be worn with gym strip) with school logo
- Black leggings and/or base layer shirts may be layered underneath for added warmth

Students in grades 8-12 who participate in Falcon athletics must purchase warm-up uniforms that include:

- Navy & white track jacket and pants with school logo

## NOTES ON APPEARANCE:

- Families should take stock of uniform fit and condition every few months to make sure student uniforms are well-fitting as students grow.
- Tunic, skort, and short hems should reach knee length for consistent appearance and freedom of movement
- We recommend wearing bike shorts under kilts and tunics to allow for comfort and ease of movement (also available through Cambridge)
- Any clothing or hairstyle that is distracting to the learning process is not permitted.
  - Hair colours should appear natural, and hair should be neat and clean.
- If makeup is worn, it should be natural-looking. If nail polish is worn, it should be in muted, neutral tones.
- Any tattoos must not be visible.
- In keeping with a consistent uniform appearance and general safety guidelines, we ask that jewellery not be worn.
  - \*Religious articles and/or additions to the uniform, such as head coverings and other pillars of faith are approved, as are small, simple, neutral-coloured studs to maintain ear piercings.
  - This expectation includes casual days
- Hats/toques/baseball caps are not to be worn in the building outside of Spirit/theme days (ex.: "Hilarious Hat & Hair Day"), including casual days.
- Hair bands, scrunchies, or bows should either be purchased through Cambridge Uniforms or be in solid black or navy.

## **UNIFORM ACCOUNTABILITY**

Occasionally, students will need support to ensure they are properly meeting uniform expectations. The 2024-2025 school year brings a new opportunity to improve our systems and help students take responsibility for their appearance each day.

### **Elementary (Kindergarten to Grade 7)**

This year we will be focusing more on sharing reminders and feedback to students when their uniform is out of compliance. Elementary parents (Kinder-Gr. 7) can expect to receive a Uniform Infraction slip when appropriate itemizing the areas of uniform that were out of compliance with the school uniform policy. Uniform Infraction slips must be signed and returned to the homeroom teacher. If you have any questions about the school's uniform expectations, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

In cases of recurring infractions, the administration may reach out to parents to better understand the situation and collaborate on a plan to resolve it.

We kindly ask that all uniform expectations be met each morning as your child prepares for school. Thank you for your partnership!

### **High School (Grade 8 to Grade 12)**

The **first** time a high school student is not in uniform they will:

- Receive a uniform infraction, recorded and tracked by the office.

On the **second** occasion, they will:

- Receive a uniform infraction, recorded and tracked by the office.
- Fill out a written plan in the office for how they're going to solve the issue with the support of the office team or principal. Examples might include:
  - Making a plan to retire shoes that are not in dress code
  - Setting up reminders and accountability systems so that a student does not forget gym strip on PE days

On the **third** occasion, they will:

- Receive a uniform infraction, recorded and tracked by the office.
- The office team will contact parents to inform them of the situation and seek their support in helping the student follow through with the plan and meet uniform expectations.

If uniform infractions persist:

*integrity*    *service*    *family*    *belief*

- The student will be referred to the Behavioural Coaching Committee to provide greater support and accountability to the student in meeting uniform expectations.
- If necessary, talk with the principal or vice-principal to formulate a new plan to ensure the lapse does not happen again. Parents and administrators might also need to talk to figure out how to support or tweak the student's plan.