

No UNIFORM STANCE ON UNIFORMS

When outfits don't distract, lessons prevail

By Rachael Schmidt
Honorable Mention, Feature Writing
Division: Middle School

Normally, only people who attend private schools wear uniforms, but now public school students are beginning to wear them too. Some people believe that wearing uniforms at a public school is a good idea, but others think that a stricter dress code should be avoided.

Uniforms at public schools have many advantages. It is a lot easier to get dressed in the morning so you don't have to go running around the house looking for a certain T-shirt or a clean pair of jeans. You spend a lot less time choosing what to wear. Uniforms can also help students focus on their school work and homework and they begin to stop wondering about what other people are wearing.

When everyone is wearing the same thing, no one is teased about what they are wearing. That helps build self-confidence and it ensures a student does not feel any less important than anyone else.

Uniforms can help to teach a person to not judge others on how they look or the type of clothes they buy and students learn to judge personalities.

Wearing uniforms also at public schools also has some downsides. With uniforms, buying play clothes is necessary because uniforms are too nice and expensive to get muddied up or ripped. Also, most people prefer not to wear their uniforms in public because they are a little dorky.

Some people think that uniforms take away a student's freedom of expression, while free dress allows students to express themselves and it allows uniqueness to show in a person. Uniforms almost seem boring or less exciting than free dress. Seeing people all wearing the same thing almost seems robotic and it lacks variation. It seems to take away everyone's personality.

Uniforms and a stricter dress code at public schools may make getting a good education and not prejudging people easier, but it also lacks variety and it takes away a student's freedom of expression.



Joel Rosenbaum/The Reporter

Students at Holy Spirit Catholic School in Fairfield are required to wear uniforms to school.

While some public schools are beginning to use uniforms like private schools, others will always believe that free dress is the right way to go. In the end, the most important thing is that students get a good education and that

they live a successful life.

The author is an eighth-grader at Notre Dame in Vacaville. She is a student in Mary Iannarelli's classroom.

Pros and cons of dress policy

By Rina Domingo
Honorable Mention, Opinion Writing
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Uniforms. What do you think about the subject? Do you think that wearing uniforms to school is a way to teach kids how to dress properly or is it something that restricts students from expressing who they are? In this article, I'm writing about both sides of the issue.

In every private or Catholic school, you'll get a mixture of replies when the subject is brought up. Often, it is usually the older kids who despise the uniform the most. You might even bend the rules a bit.

Not all kids in the upper classes hate the uniform though. They might say that because everyone is practically wearing the same thing and that makes them less self-conscious about their appearance. Some students also are neutral about uniforms. Like these people, I am also neutral about uniforms.

When I think of uniforms, I am pretty content about it. The reason why I'm so content about uniforms is that I have always worn uniforms to school and I've learned to deal with it. I think I've gotten so used to it, it doesn't bother me. I also like the fact that I don't always worry about what I'm wearing. Sometimes when people dress freely, they take advantage of that freedom and dress however they want.

There are also many cons about school uniforms. I don't enjoy wearing uniforms all the time and I also think we should wear whatever we want.

It can be pretty tiring to wear the same thing every day. I also think the uniform rules can be sometimes too strict and I always question why it can't be more lenient. I even try to bend the rules once in a while, too.

In conclusion, it may seem there are only pros to uniforms or cons to it, but in my opinion, there are both pros and cons to uniforms.

The author was a seventh-grader at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield when this essay was submitted.

Catholic school can best prepare students for the future

By Dallas Brown
Honorable Mention, Feature Writing
Division: 7-8

To me, Catholic schools offer so much more than just a dress code. They provide me with an amazing education, so that after my elementary years I will be more prepared for high school. I believe I will be able to perform better and with greater ability than students who will come from public schools.

After high school, the knowledge that I will have accumulated over my young school years will set me at a higher standard so that I can attend a better college and then enjoy an enhanced career in life.

Despite the uniforms, I have come to like

Catholic schools. A few years ago, I couldn't see how great a privilege it was to attend a Catholic school or how it would help me in my future school years. Now, as an eighth-grader, I finally see why my parents wanted me to attend Notre Dame School: the education!

My personal experience at my Catholic school, Notre Dame, has been almost like a roller coaster. It started off slow and shot off like a rocket once I became comfortable.

Throughout my nine years here, there have been ups and downs, and some loops that scared me, but I was able to persevere and overcome them. There were times when I got scared, frustrated, and angry and just wanted to get off and go on a different ride. Then, the person I was riding next to gave me advice

and I relaxed.

I have also gotten very distracted on this roller coaster; looking at other attractions and not paying attention to the ride that I was on. But now, as I am on my final stretch, I can see the station right ahead. My final task is to stay focused so that I can get off this ride and venture off onto a new and bigger one.

I won't lie. I haven't always liked Notre Dame, but now, I've realized that I do. I like all the people and I like that there are only 30 students in a class. I have grown so much because, unlike public schools, I never had to worry about being hidden or lost in the shuffle of all the kids.

The small environment let me become friends with kids not only in my own grade,

but also with kids in younger grades.

And I know that the teachers have only been doing their jobs, all those times they were hard on me. They did it to prepare me for high school.

So for that, I am ever thankful. After I graduate eighth-grade, I will be able to go off to high school knowing that I will go farther in life because of the education that I have received from my Catholic school, Notre Dame.

The author was an eighth-grader in Mary Iannarelli's classroom at Notre Dame School in Vacaville when this entry was submitted.

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Michael Sean Carpenter, aka Sean Flood, is a 2004 Vacaville High School graduate who is attending San Francisco State University this fall.



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Noren Shoyeb is a 2007 graduate from Will C. Wood high who is majoring in psychology with an emphasis in mathematics at UC Davis.



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