

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who should wear a uniform?

All CJA students (Nursery – Grade 9) are required to wear school uniforms during school hours and at all school related activities, unless otherwise advised.

Who is the supplier of uniforms?

We have chosen Top Marks as the CJA supplier. Top Marks is a highly reputable Canadian manufacturer and distributor of school uniforms in Canada and Calgary. The company is based in Montreal and services schools across the country.

What will happen if my child is NOT wearing a uniform?

Parents are responsible for ensuring their children are appropriately dressed before arriving at school. Students arriving at school not in uniform will not be permitted to attend classes, and their parents will be contacted to bring the uniform to school. Students, who repeatedly do not follow the school uniform policy, will be sent home until the appropriate attire is worn.

Will there be casual (non-uniform) days?

Yes, there will be non-uniform days, as specified by the school, where the students will be able to wear non-uniform clothes. Appropriate attire is still required and must conform to the Student Non-Uniform Dress Policy #5.50. The school calendar will mark casual and formal days. We are planning non-uniform days each month in addition to various theme days throughout the school year.

When are the formal uniform days?

Every Friday (Shabbat) and specific days as outlined in the school calendar. On formal uniform days students are required to wear their “formal” uniforms.

Will students be required to wear their uniforms on field trips?

This will be at the discretion of school administration and will be dependant on the venue. Parents will be informed of the clothing requirements on field trip permission forms.

Should the clothes be labeled?

Yes, all clothing **must** be clearly labeled to avoid any confusion. Top Marks has “name tapes” available to order, or parents can support the CJA-PA by purchasing Mabel’s Labels.

How should shirts be worn?

Shirts may be worn tucked in or out. A plain white t-shirt is permitted as an undershirt. Boys are encouraged to tuck their shirts in on formal days.

What if students have payot or want to wear kippot or tzitit on a daily basis?

Students are allowed payot and are welcome to wear kippot and tzitit.

What is the proper length for kilts?

The minimum lengths must not be more than 2" above the knee.

What is the average cost to outfit my child for one year?

The following is a list of the commonly purchased uniform pieces (and quantities), with the approximate costs for the first year. These are only **guidelines** based on information provided by our supplier and other schools.

Girls	Boys
Nursery - Grade 4	Nursery - Grade 4
-one short sleeve white oxford shirt -one short sleeve polo shirt -one long sleeve polo shirt -one pair of pants -one kilt, skort or tunic <p style="text-align: right;">Cost: \$145.00</p>	-one short sleeve white oxford shirt -one long sleeve polo shirt -one short sleeve polo shirt -two pairs of pants -one pair of walking shorts <p style="text-align: right;">Cost: \$155.00</p>
Grades 5 – 6	Grades 5 – 6
-one short sleeve white oxford shirt -one short sleeve polo shirt -one long sleeve polo shirt -one pair of pants -one kilt, skort or tunic -one pair of dazzle shorts -one gym t-shirt <p style="text-align: right;">Cost: \$175.00</p>	-one short sleeve white oxford shirt -one short sleeve polo shirt -one long sleeve polo shirt -two pairs of pants -one pair of walking shorts -one pair of dazzle shorts -one gym t-shirt <p style="text-align: right;">Cost: \$200.00</p>
Grades 7 – 9	Grades 7 – 9
-one short sleeve white oxford shirt -one short sleeve polo shirt -one long sleeve polo shirt -one pair of pants -one tartan kilt -one tie -one pair of dazzle shorts -one gym t-shirt <p style="text-align: right;">Cost: \$245.00</p>	-one short sleeve white oxford shirt -one short sleeve polo shirt -one long sleeve polo shirt -two pairs of pants -one tie -one pair of walking shorts -one pair of dazzle shorts -one gym t-shirt <p style="text-align: right;">Cost: \$240.00</p>

The CJA will be providing a cardigan sweater or sleeveless sweater vest included with registration for the 2011-2012 school year. The price of a caridgan sweater or sleeveless sweater vest is NOT reflected in the prices listed above.

Do I need to purchase all clothing pieces at the same time?

No. The minimum purchase required, would be those pieces your child requires for formal days (as these pieces can be worn daily also). All other pieces can be purchased throughout the year at the discretion of the parent. On-line orders take an average of 3-4 working days to be delivered directly to your home via Canada Post. Keep in mind, that Top Marks will only guarantee delivery of uniform pieces in time for the first day of school for orders placed by **June 30, 2011**.

What kind of shoes must students wear?

Shoes must be black, navy or grey with heels two inches or lower. Shoes must cover the foot completely; dress shoes or runners with coordinating laces or Velcro, penny loafer or ballet style slip-ons or strapped Mary Janes are acceptable. Clogs, sling backs, sandals, crocs, flip-flops and boots are not approved footwear during school hours. For students in Nursery to Grade 3, all reasonable effort must be made to purchase shoes that are predominately black, navy or grey. Runners for gym may be any color as long as they are non-marking.

Do the clothes need to be dry-cleaned or hand washed?

No, the clothes are not required to be dry-cleaned or hand washed. All clothing is machine washable and can go in the dryer. When you receive your order from Top Marks, included with it will be a full set of care instructions for each garment purchased.

Are the white shirts bleachable? And if I do use bleach, what will happen to the navy logo?

The polo shirts are 100% cotton and can be bleached. The oxford shirt is a cotton poly blend (60/40) and would follow the same general rule that any poly cotton blend should not be bleached. The thread that Top Marks uses for the logo is 100% nylon and will not be affected by any bleach used.

NEW QUESTION! I'm worried that my child's clothing is going to become stained during arts and craft activities, what do you recommend?

It is recommended that students bring an "Art smock" for arts and crafts, especially in the younger grades. We suggest using one of Dad's button-up dress shirts he no longer wears. This way it can be taken on and off without going over the head, it will be long enough to offer protection and the sleeves can be rolled up, or the button adjusted to fit the child's wrist.

What is the gym strip?

Mandatory gym strip for Grades 5 -9 is navy dazzle shorts and a grey wicking t-shirt. There is no mandatory gym strip for Nursery to Grade 4. Runners may be any colour as long as they have non-marking soles. Socks are to be white, navy or grey.

Can students wear footless or cropped tights under their kilts, skorts or tunics?

Only navy knee-highs or footed tights may be worn with kilts, skorts or tunics. When knee-highs are worn, black modesty shorts are required for girls in grades 7 to 9, and are encouraged from grades 1 to 6.

What about socks?

With pants, socks may be navy or grey. On formal days, socks should match the pants. With kilts, skorts and tunics socks must be navy knee-highs. With shorts, socks can be navy, or white (girls are encouraged to wear their navy knee highs). During gym, socks may be white, navy, or grey.

What about scarves, hair accessories and jewelry:

Scarves of any kind are not part of the school uniform and cannot be worn during school hours. Hair accessories such as hair bands must be plain and one color. Jewelry is acceptable as long as it's conservative in nature, does not attract undue attention and does not distract others from their schoolwork.

What color should gym runners be?

Gym runners may be any color as long as they have non-marking soles.

Are belts required?

Belts are not required, but may be worn with pants that have belt loops and where the belt provides a function other than being an accessory. Belts must be black with a modest buckle.

NEW QUESTION! My child is in pre-school, and is required to have an “emergency” change of clothes in their back pack, does this have to be approved uniform items too?

An “emergency” change of clothes does not have to consist of approved uniform items. We do however ask that the clothing pieces consist of uniform colors (white, light blue or navy tops, and navy bottoms). This will ensure that a student who has had an accident will not stand out.

NEW QUESTION! We are a Jewish school, so why are kippot not mandatory? The Calgary Jewish Academy is an inclusive community school where students are welcomed from all Jewish backgrounds. The CJA teaches students to respect a wide range of personal beliefs and practices; wearing kippot is one of them. Male students are required to wear kippot during bible classes, all prayers and any religious ritual ceremonies. Wearing kippot beyond such times is a matter of personal preference and should be decided within each family. Kippot are available from several companies in a variety of styles, colours and sizes. Students are encouraged to wear a kippah they like.

Do other Jewish Day Schools have uniforms?

Yes, we have completed a thorough review of various Jewish day schools across the country and most schools have implemented a uniform policy. Such schools include Gray Academy (Winnipeg), Richmond Jewish Day School (Vancouver), Vancouver Talmud Torah and Hillel Academy (Ottawa).

How do we get started?

Top Marks will provide order form packages with clear instructions on how to place an order. We expect the packages to be available near the end of February.

Top Marks will be present at the school in early May to fit your child(ren). Fittings will be arranged by appointment. Parents will be able to request an appointment by calling Top Marks 1 (800) 667-7105. CJA will inform parents as to when bookings and Top Marks order packages are available.

We invite all parents to visit the Top Marks web site (www.topmarks.ca) and click on the side tab labeled “on-line orders”. You will be brought to a screen that states “ Current Customer Login and New Customers”. Go to the “New Customers” box and enter the school password (cja01) to access the CJA uniforms. On the left hand side of the page you will see a box labeled “Browse our Catalogue” – this will allow you to see the approved uniform pieces and their prices.

When and how do I place an order?

We recommend that you do not place an order until your child has been “fitted”. You may place your order at the fitting or on-line through the Top Marks website.

When will the uniforms arrive?

Canada Post will deliver orders received prior to **June 30, 2011** to your home in July. Orders received after June 30, 2011, cannot be guaranteed to arrive before the first day of school. Once school starts, any orders received by Top Marks are traditionally shipped out within 7 working days. If you will be away on vacation at the time of delivery, please advise Top Marks so alternative arrangements can be formed.

Is there a discount available?

All orders received by Top Marks by no later than May 31, 2011, will receive a 6% discount. Orders received after May 31, 2011 will NOT receive the 6% discount.

What if I already purchased CJA Spirit Wear?

CJA Spirit Wear hoodies will be acceptable as “daily wear”. CJA Spirit Wear shirts, shorts and sweatpants will only be acceptable as gym strip.

Our uniforms have arrived, and some pieces don't fit. What should I do?

Top Marks has a very straight forward and simple exchange process should the need arise. When you receive your uniform package, please have your child(ren) try everything on. Should you require an exchange simply follow the instructions included in the package. Top Marks will be present at the school sometime in mid to late August to process your exchanges.

Who should I contact with questions/feedback about uniforms?

Questions about laundering, care, sizing, ordering or exchanging uniforms should be directed to Top Marks.

Can I order more items during the year?

Yes, parents will be able to order uniform pieces at any time during the school year. The simplest way to order is on-line using the Top Marks website. The Calgary Top Marks team will also be present at the CJA on certain dates throughout the school year. These dates will be published in the school newsletter.

NEW QUESTION! When and how will the NEW mandatory uniform program be reviewed?

CJA will participate in an informal review (most likely a parent, student and staff survey) each school year for the first three years of the NEW mandatory uniform program. Thereafter review of the uniform program may be included in the school's regular program review process.