

Dearest Parents,

As we joyfully anticipate the All School Mass with May Crowning in the High School, and the 2023 Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Ceremony at Pinecrest Academy, I wanted to share some thoughts (both as your High School Dean and a fellow parent) regarding attire for Mass and Commencement. It goes without saying that our world has become increasingly “casual” when it comes to appropriate attire for events. There was a time when we could say phrases like “Sunday Best” or “Mass Attire” and everyone knew how to dress, but that is no longer the case. Pinecrest Academy takes great pride in our Catholic Identity and, as such, our Baccalaureate Mass is the catalyst for the 2022 Commencement Ceremony. Mass appropriately becomes the launch-point for each graduate to begin an exciting, new journey.

As the Dean of Students, I recognize the need to ensure our dress-code policies compliment modern standards; however, there are some aspects of dress-code that should be expected, particularly when it comes to Mass and Commencement.

During our Baccalaureate Mass, there will be 16-18 Mass parts. This means your student will be bowing, genuflecting, speaking etc. It is very important that your student sees this as a formal, classy event that is filled with lifelong images, and communicates how much we value our faith. To that end, there are several dress-code elements that must be followed.

Please help partner with us to ensure that we uphold the sacred space of Baccalaureate Mass, and the professional nature of Commencement by taking an active role in the attire your students wear.

The seniors did an excellent job for the May Crowning. Most of them took the event seriously, and looked incredible! We recognize that it will have been almost a month since they had to “dress for success” and this is simply a reminder of some of the issues that are more likely to be areas of concern.

We are asking the young men to wear suits (jacket, tie, dress pants), and the girls to wear dresses.

Young men must be clean shaven and their hair should be above their collar, approaching the ears and eyes.

1. There should be no facial hair.
2. There should be no jewelry visible, including earrings.
3. There should be no pony tails or “man buns”.

Young ladies should have a dress that is approaching their knees. During a Catholic Mass there is a lot of bowing, genuflecting etc. All students will receive a bible so all students will be very visible.

1. Dresses that are too short will be very evident based on movement etc.
2. You may want to consider an additional 4-5 inches in length because of the bowing and movement.
3. As we are in a sacred space, we ask that the girls cover their shoulders.
4. The girls love to wear high heels, which is fine, but please recognize there are two platforms and stairs to navigate. We have had issues of tripping, almost falling etc.

As a fellow parent, I always feel a sense of honor and awe as these young men and women take the stage. They are ready and willing to be the Christian Leaders our world desperately needs. It is my great pleasure to celebrate with you as we all do our best to transform society.

All Things Through Him,  
Meg Bohn, High School Dean of Students