



Financial

- Many families have lost their jobs due to Covid-19, and are unable to provide basic necessities, let alone uniform.
- Uniforms are expensive for families in crisis due to Covid-19, the cost of a complete uniform outfit (short sleeve shirt and dress pants) is about \$89, which does not include all black shoes, sweaters, kilts and other sets of uniform. Some schools also require a winter and summer uniform as well.
- If schools close again due to a second wave, and students are required to transition to remote learning, what will happen with uniforms since they are not required for remote learning?

Student Statements



A Gr. 12 from Loretto Abbey said, “I support this completely. My parents struggle financially up to the point where I have to support them with the summer job I had this year. My younger brother is entering high school and was limited to what uniform he was able to purchase due to this financial burden.”

A Gr. 12 Bishop Allen said, “I really want to be honest, my school opted for a winter uniform a couple of years ago and it is very pricey. There are many reasons why I would love for there to be no mandatory uniform this year. I do not own multiple sets of uniforms because my sister also goes to the school. It is very difficult to wash the uniforms on the daily as I am afraid that the pants will be in distress. I noticed last year that with my pants, they started to tear a bit with frequent washing. I would love a choice of clothes this year because I know it would greatly help those everywhere. Covid-19 was such an unfortunate event that nobody had a choice of. People and families lost jobs and also lives. It is very important for schools to prioritize the comfort of families and parents whilst choosing the option for the better good of the health of their students. “

Student Statements



A Gr. 12 from St. Joseph's College said, "I support this motion because right now one of my parents are out of work and our family can already feel the financial difficulties. Having to buy new uniform pieces may not be a struggle for my family, but I know it will be this year for many families. Before COVID-19 I know of people at my school who couldn't even afford the uniform regularly. I couldn't imagine what their situation would look like now."

A Gr. 12 from Madonna said, "I completely support this motion. As a grade 12 student who has not been able to afford more than two sets of uniforms since 9th grade, and can only do laundry once every two weeks, I can confidently state that uniforms form an ungodly amount of stress in the lives of low income families like mine. During a global pandemic, where anything and everything seems to be going wrong, and most families have found themselves in a financial drought, it does not seem just to demand such an expensive and unattainable uniform in return for an education."



Health and Safety

- Uniforms must be washed after every use to reduce the spread of Covid-19, especially for families living in those who are at a higher risk of being infected.
- Not all families have access to a washer and dryer, such as living within apartments or having to use the laundromat.
- Most families do laundry weekly to reduce the cost of the hydro and electric bills
- COVID can live on the plastic parts of the uniform, which can live on for hours undetected.



Student Statements

A Gr. 10 at Marshall said “I am a student who is unable to wash my uniform immediately after it being worn once. Despite me having two sets of uniform, it is still best to wash clothes as frequent as possible during this pandemic. I have more non-uniform clothing than uniform clothing. If the uniform policy is suspended for the 2020-2021 school year, it will be more convenient for students like myself.”

A Gr.11 at Mary Ward said “I only have one uniform shirt and pants and can’t keep washing them everyday (because of COVID exposure). To laundry them, I must use a whole load for one outfit. It comes with extra electricity and water costs 5 days a week for the whole school year which is not in the budget especially since my family has lost its income. Without the uniform policy, I can use casual clothing (5+ shirts & 5+ bottoms) with one outfit per day and occasionally laundry my clothes when I need them clean.”

A Gr.11 at Loretto Collegel support the motion to temporarily ban the mandatory wear of school uniform because due to the ongoing pandemic, families could struggle with affording their child's uniform as well as keeping it regularly clean. Additionally, students will only be attending school for about 2 hours every second day which would be a waste of clean uniform that would have to be washed again for the following day. Keeping in mind that it takes time and money to wash uniform for school.



Mental Health and Well-Being

- Students often feel their best when they are in control of the outfits they wear.
- Students are confident and comfortable in their own clothes that cater to their own fashion sense.
- Dressing up have boost moods and have students looking forward to starting their day.
- Body dysmorphia can occur when one wears clothing that does not suit their body type or style.

Student Statements



A Gr. 12 from Carter said, “It may be easier on the students mental health. Teenagers and children naturally feel less stressed out in comfort spaces, and clothes work similarly. To lessen stress levels on students, allow them to dress as they wish to make them feel more comfortable in such a high stress situation.”

A Gr. 12 from Madonna said “I’m graduating this year and my mom was thankful this motion passed because uniforms are so expensive. We would rather ensure we have food on our table and a roof over our head. Half of my siblings are in university and I’m next. I would rather use the money to apply to schools than buy another set of uniform for my last year of high school. Mentally I am ready tired. Dealing with back to school stuff has caused my mental health to plummet. When I’m able to pick out my own outfits, I get excited for the day ahead of me, because I feel good about myself! I feel confident and happy. It’s such a small thing, but it makes my day. I will still wear a uniform to school, but it would be nice to dress up a bit and express myself once a week!”



Student Statements

A Gr12 from Loretto Abbey says “I support this motion because I believe that clothes are a form of expression for students and allowing students to display their style is a confidence booster for them. I personally do not feel confident, comfortable, or happy wearing my school uniform and although I am graduating this year I hope that future students do not have to feel this way.”

A Grade 11 at St. Basils said that “When especially in a Catholic school, we should understand, God had given us our individual selves to express under his word. We should be able to express the individual creativity God has given us. Another factor affects those in poverty. Many very low income parents have to buy sweat-priced uniforms for clothes that are only able to be worn in school for a limited time.

A Gr.10 from Cardinal Newman said “If we are going to school for 2 and a half hours everyday , every other day ,in the heat , than we might as well be comfortable while doing so. It would make this difficult time less stressful if we are comfortable in our own clothes. Plus picking outfits may be something to look forward to while going into the next school day, it’s exciting!”

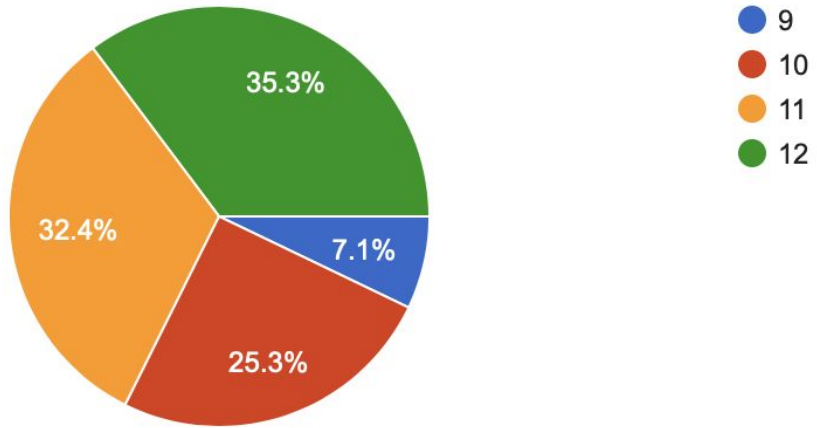


Grade Response Numbers

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What grade will you be in this year?

3,287 responses

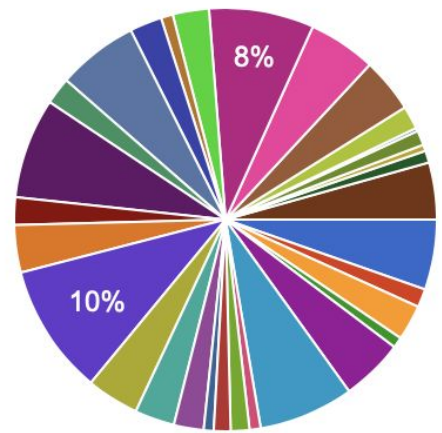




School Response Answers

What school do you attend?

3,287 responses



- Bishop Allen Academy-
- Bishop Morrocco/Thomas Merton
- St. Oscar Romero
- Brebeuf College
- Cardinal Carter
- Cardinal Newman
- Chaminade College
- Dante Alighieri Academy



Yes/No/Maybe Responses

- Do you agree with this motion? *THIS MEANS UNIFORM IS NOT MANDATORY. YOU CAN STILL WEAR IT IF YOU WISH.

3,287 responses

