

## Appearance Guidelines

These principles apply to all school activities, on or off campus. Our dress code attempts to reflect our need to be a positive witness in the community; and to establish standards of dress and personal grooming that are not distracting to the educational process. These standards include the need for modesty (I Timothy 2:9); the establishment of an identity which is in, but not of, the world (I John 2:15-17); and the ability to avoid being a stumbling block to others (I John 2:10, Romans 14:13). We seek to encourage our students to act as ladies and gentlemen (I Peter 3:3,4 and I Corinthians 10:31,32).

It is our desire that we dress appropriately for the occasion—not be overdressed (showy) or underdressed (sloppy). The key to acceptability in clothing is to avoid extremes. Modesty, neatness and sensitivity to what is “appropriate” is the standard we wish to maintain and portray. We want to avoid clothing that is immodest, and which tends to draw attention to one's self or sex.

As students grow in Christian character, they will develop Biblical patterns of deportment, dress and grooming. The intent of the dress code found below is to give guidance to students as they make choices. Rules cannot cover every situation, but are necessary to determine certain guidelines for our students. Outward conformity to manmade rules means nothing unless it is done with a proper heart attitude and a genuine love for the Lord.

### **Dress Standards**

Please note: There may be minor changes coming as we seek to simplify the dress code.

#### 1. All Students (K4 - 12th)

- No inappropriate writing or pictures on clothing.
- No coats in the classroom.
- No camouflage, bibs, tank tops, or jerseys (jerseys may be worn on special days as announced by the principal).
- No holes or worn/tattered/extremely faded clothing.
- No tight or extremely baggy clothing.
- All attire must be neat, modest, appropriate, and properly sized.
- Pants:
  - No sweat, wind, or break-away pants.
  - No worn, baggy, saggy, tight, grubby, or hip-huggers pants.
  - No pants with the seams cut.
  - No pants with strings (ties) hanging from them.
- Dresses (including openings in dresses or skirts) must be at least mid-knee length.
- Shorts, when allowed to be worn, must be no more than three inches above the knee with spandex underneath. This includes gym and sport's practice.
- Shoes
  - Shoes must be worn at all times.
  - Dress sandals with ankle strap are permitted. No flip-flops. For safety reasons, children must change into sneakers for recess or PE classes.
  - Non-marking gym shoes are to be worn in the gym.

- Additional dress requirements may be expected for programs, athletic events, etc., according to the discretion of the coach or teacher in charge of the event. Swimwear and formalwear are to be checked by faculty.
  - Capris are permitted.
2. Secondary (7th - 12th)
    - No jeans (of any color).
    - Guys shirts must be collared, buttoned-up (except top button), and tucked in. No zippers. Sweaters of a knitted material may also be worn.
    - Turtlenecks and dress sweaters of a knitted material may be worn.
    - Sweatshirts, fleeces, and pullovers must have a collared shirt visible underneath.
  3. Elementary (K4 - 6th)
    - No inappropriate writing or pictures on shirts.
    - Tailed shirts and shirts longer than 6-8 inches below the waistline must be tucked in.

### **Accessories**

1. No hats or sunglasses may be worn in school.
2. No visible tattoos or pocket chains.
3. Boys may not wear jewelry except watches, rings or ID-type bracelets.
4. Girls may wear up to three pair of earrings.

### **Hair**

1. Extreme hair styles or colors are to be avoided. Hair color must be a natural hair color throughout with natural highlights. Boy's hair must be its own natural color.
2. Boy's hair must be neatly trimmed, not hanging over ears, collar, or eyebrows. Sideburns should not extend past the bottom of the ear.
3. Boys must be clean-shaven (no facial hair).
4. Lice: A letter will go home to inform a class of a pending head-check. Also, a letter will be sent home with a child found with lice or nits, listing our requirements and a treatment schedule. The student must be checked by OCS personnel and cleared before being re-admitted to the classroom

Acceptable dress according to these policies will be determined by the principal or a faculty representative.