



PreK-12th Grade Dress Code

Guiding Principles

Heritage Christian Academy's dress code is intended to give a concrete, practical witness to the school's commitment to fulfill its stated aims to honor God. Our goal is to provide a learning environment where all students and staff can concentrate and focus easily without being distracted by attire.

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

- The emphasis at HCA is on modesty and appropriateness for the learning environment.
- Parents are expected to help their child follow the dress code to the best of their ability.
- Students must adhere to the dress code at school functions when appropriate (ie. concerts, etc). Exceptions may be given for athletic games/practices and formal events. These exceptions will be communicated to the appropriate students/parents before such events and enforced by appropriate authorities designated by HCA's administration.

The following specifications and interpretations ensure that the **Guiding Principles** are met:

SHIRTS

1. Gentlemen may wear shirts (including sleeveless shirts) provided the shirt has at least a three finger width shoulder strap, covers any undergarments, has a modest armhole, and covers the midriff.
2. Ladies' may wear shirts (including sleeveless shirts) provided the shirt completely covers cleavage (including when bending over) and has at least a three finger width shoulder strap, covers any undergarments, has a modest armhole, and covers the midriff.

PANTS

3. Students may wear athletic pants or sweatpants. Students may not wear pajama bottoms.
4. Ladies may wear leggings/yoga pants as long as their top, skirt, or dress is long enough to cover their bottom with a consistent hem length all the way around.
5. Holes/shredding higher than 4" from the knee must have fabric underneath them.

SHORTS/SKIRTS

6. Students may wear shorts (including athletic shorts) no shorter than **four inches from the top of the knee**.
7. Ladies may wear skirts/dresses as long as the hem falls to the **top of the knee** when standing upright.

HAIR/HATS

8. Hair must be styled to remain out of the eyes.
9. No head coverings (baseball caps, ski hats, hoods, etc.) are to be worn during class and chapel.

MISCELLANEOUS

10. No visible undergarments are to be showing at any time.
11. Shoes must be worn at all times. (Elementary students must wear close-toed shoes with at least a backstrap.)
12. Clothing may have writing and graphics provided there is no message and/or advertising that may be dishonoring to the Lord or in conflict with the standards of our school.
13. Industrial piercings, plugs, gauges, barbells, tattoos, and facial piercings are not permitted.
14. Ladies may wear earrings; Gentlemen may not wear earrings.

*Students who are out of compliance with the dress code will receive a demerit and will be asked to fix it. Modesty infractions **must** be fixed before returning to class. If a student receives two demerits for dress code infractions, they will be required to keep a dress code compliant outfit in their locker at all times. Failure to do so will result in the student being required to go home to change upon the third infraction. Three dress code demerits will constitute a detention.

(February 2023)