



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 aim of honoring God as encouraged in *1 Corinthians 6:20b*, "...Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

- The emphasis of HCA's dress code is on modesty and appropriateness for the learning environment.
- It's our desire to partner with parents in helping their child follow the dress code to the best of their ability.

The following specifications and interpretations ensure that the **Guiding Principles** are met. HCA Administration and our Parent Partnership Committee (PPC) Policy Partner have the final say with anything that is questionable:

SHIRTS

1. Shirts must have at least a three finger width shoulder strap, cover any undergarments (the color and lines of an undergarment should not be seen through the fabric), have a modest armhole and neckline and cover the midriff at all times.

PANTS

2. Students may wear athletic pants or sweatpants. Students may not wear pajama bottoms.
3. Ladies may wear leggings/yoga pants as long as their top, skirt, or dress is long enough to cover their full bottom (and remains that way throughout the day) with a consistent hem length all the way around.
4. Holes/shredding higher than 4" from the knee must have fabric underneath that stays in place throughout the day.

SHORTS/SKIRTS

5. Students may wear shorts (including athletic shorts) no shorter than **four inches from the top of the knee (fingertip length for elementary students)**.
6. Ladies may wear skirts/dresses as long as the hem falls to the **top of the knee** when standing upright regardless of what's underneath the skirt/dress.

HAIR/HATS

7. Hair must be styled to remain out of the eyes.
8. Students may wear hats except during chapel, pledges, and when a teacher asks them to remove it.

MISCELLANEOUS

9. No visible undergarments are to be showing at any time. The color and lines of an undergarment should not be seen through the fabric.
10. Shoes must be worn at all times. (Elementary students must wear close-toed shoes with at least a backstrap.)
11. Clothing may have writing and graphics provided it does not advertise drugs, alcohol, weapons, violence or anything that communicates morbidity or demonic activity. Administration has the final say if something is questionable.
12. Industrial piercings, plugs, gauges, barbells, tattoos, and facial piercings are not permitted.
13. Ladies may wear earrings; Gentlemen may not wear earrings.

Secondary students who are out of compliance with the dress code will be talked to by an HCA staff person or PPC dress code partner and *may* receive a demerit. Modesty infractions **must** be fixed before returning to class. If a student receives three demerits for dress code infractions, he/she will incur a detention. The student's parent will receive an email that day and a copy of the email in the next family envelope distribution. Demerits/detentions **will not** reset at the beginning of each quarter/semester. If a student continues to incur the same infraction, they may lose the privilege of wearing that type of clothing for a set period of time.

Elementary students who are out of compliance will not be spoken to directly. A parent will be contacted concerning the infraction and may be asked to bring them a change of clothing.