

Dress and Appearance Policy

Grades K-4

The goal of the elementary (Grades K-4) dress policy is geared towards students wearing clothes that promote safety, comfort, durability and affordability. The students in grades K-4 will be allowed to wear T-shirts, knee-length shorts, jeans, sweat pants and sports pants. Clothing needs to be modest without negative or immoral messages, or drug, alcohol, or suggestive insignias or messages on the buttocks portion of pants/jeans/shorts.

Grades 5-12

As students move through the secondary level they begin to take on greater individual responsibility in many areas. One of these areas is personal dress and appearance. The purpose of the Dress and Appearance Policy is to teach students the benefits that come from the freedom of making more of their own decisions and doing so within boundaries that reflect modesty, cleanliness, neatness, safety, and a concern for the spiritual and academic environment. **Modesty** speaks to a desire to have students dress in a way that maintains decency, does not accentuate the body, and in no way appears provocative or attention getting. Any type of attire or grooming which attracts undue attention to the wearer and distracts from the spiritual atmosphere and educational process is not acceptable. Extremes in dress, style, or makeup are to be avoided as well as anything that is suggestive in appeal or has the trademark of some segment of society decidedly ungodly in influence. Although the appearance of any student is primarily an individual and parental responsibility, we expect students to maintain the type of appearance that is not distracting to teachers or other students or detrimental to the educational process. Our major daily concern is the education of students, carried out in a God honoring environment, and not the policing of apparel. **If any question arises on any dress and appearance issue, the decision of the school administration shall prevail.**

Students who come to school without proper attention to personal grooming or appropriate dress may be asked to call their parents for a change of clothing, may be sent home to correct these concerns, or may wear a school-provided outfit. Students who violate the dress and appearance policy will remain out of class until the appropriate attire is acquired and will be responsible for any work they miss due to this situation. Detentions will be given after two written dress policy violation warnings. **The school administration reserves the right to make the final decision in regard to questionable dress or appearance.** The dress policy is outlined below.

The following apparel may be worn to school:

Pants/Shorts

- Shorts are permitted (year round) for school wear but must have a finished edge and length must be to the top of the knee. Athletic shorts are not included in the definition of shorts.
- Pants with a finished edge in any color can be worn year round and are to be worn at proper waist level. “Bag and sag” or “low-riders” are not acceptable (underwear should not be showing).
- Spandex, leggings and similar form-fitting (clingy) apparel including pants that are tight may be worn if covered by clothing that meets other stated dress policy length/style requirements (length must be to the top of the knee).
- Athletic warm-up pants or shorts (to the knee) may only be worn for gym class.

Shirts/Tops

- Collars are not required on shirts/tops/sweaters.
- Shirts must have a sleeve. Sleeveless shirts may only be worn if covered by a sleeved overgarment.

Skirts/Dresses

- Girls may wear skirts or dresses. The hemline, including any slits in the back, front, or sides, must be to the top of the knee. The tops of dresses must conform to the modesty policy.

Footwear

- Footwear must be worn at all times. Sandals and soccer slides are considered shoes.
- Athletic shoes with socks are required for gym class.

Jewelry

- Girls only may wear earrings. This is the only allowable pierced jewelry.

The following apparel may not be worn to school:

- Jeans (denim) pants or shorts
- Tank tops (without a sleeved overgarment) or any article of clothing (including ever changing fashion styles not specifically named) that are deemed to be revealing around the neck, back, bust, shoulder, arm, or midriff area must not be worn.
- Tight fitting or clingy garments including tight pants that are not covered by an outer garment
- Undergarment clothing designed to be an undergarment must be worn with an overgarment.
- Clothing with negative or immoral messages, or drug, alcohol, or suggestive insignias or messages
- Insignias or messages on the buttocks portion of pants/shorts
- Clothing with tears, holes, tatters, or abrasions
- Headwear (e.g. hats, caps, visors, hoods, bandanas, etc.) cannot be worn indoors during school hours.
- Extreme jewelry is not permitted.

Hygiene standards

- Hair must be well-groomed, neat, and clean at all times.
- Hair must be a natural color. Extreme haircuts or hairstyles are not permitted.
- Boys facial hair is to be short and neatly groomed.

Those who enroll at WHCA must be willing to abide by these standards. We ask parents to ensure that their students stay well within the dress and appearance standards. Again, if any question arises on any dress and appearance issue, the decision of the school administration shall prevail.