

DRESS CODE

As a Christian school whose responsibility it is to mold the lives of our young people into that of tomorrow's world-changers, it is necessary that we uphold the highest standards of morality and decency while realizing an image of excellence. It is important for our students to come to school dressed to perform, work, and achieve. For this purpose, ACS has a standard dress code. The student's appearance has a direct effect on his or her attitude and performance in the classroom. Students (K4-12) will be required to wear a stylish and contemporary set of clothes while at school and at school functions.

We desire for our young people to understand the spirit of our standard. That spirit could be stated as follows: ACS's outward appearance is to reflect the inward purpose and quality of the student. Modesty and Christian virtue should be at the heart of what our young people desire to exhibit in their dress. If they are taught these values, they will embrace them because they are right, and they make sense.

Infraction of the dress code will usually result in demerits or reminders; although, students who are chronically outside of the dress and grooming codes of ACS will be sent to the office, and in some cases, sent home. It is important that all students follow the dress code. The dress code is in effect between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. At all other times, all dress decisions are expected to positively reflect on ACS.

After school hours, whether on campus or off, any student conducting activities as a representative of ACS is expected to dress as directed by the event sponsor/ teacher / coach. Any student attending after school functions as a spectator should consider these dress code guidelines and their representation of ACS. All dress decisions are expected to positively reflect on ACS.

The standard of dress is designed to reflect modesty, neatness, and appropriateness. It is also designed to contribute to a distinctive Christian education and promote an effective learning environment. In all the dress standards, it should be clearly understood that the administration and staff of ACS reserve the right to determine if a student is not dressed modestly, neatly, or appropriately. Consultation will be welcome, but it would be best to consult before the fact, not after. In the end, the judgments of ACS staff must prevail.

Modesty can be defined as making sure our bodies are covered in such a way as to honor the Lord and not to offend and/or tempt those around us.

Neatness can be defined as a look that is clean, with clothes that are proper fitting and in good repair.

Appropriateness can be defined as wearing clothes that fit the occasion. In a school setting, appropriate clothes are those that do not hinder the educational process or draw attention to oneself. The dress code is not designed to support or encourage the latest fashion trends or fads. This means that clothing bought at some of the popular clothing stores may not meet ACS guidelines.

In summary, an overall view of your child's clothing should reveal it to be modest, neat, clean, well-fitting, and in good repair. We hope that the appearance and dress of each student will be of such a nature each day that it will be a credit to the Lord, to the student and his or her family, and to the school. We ask for the parents' cooperation in making certain your child not only be dressed to the **"LETTER"** of the dress code but that he also be dressed in the **"SPIRIT"** of the dress code.

BASIC HYGIENE REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student shall bathe daily.
2. Each student in levels 3 - 12 shall wear deodorant daily. If student is younger but has odor issues, he/she shall also wear deodorant daily.
3. Each student shall brush his/her teeth each morning before leaving home.
4. Each student shall wash his/her face each morning before leaving home.
5. Each student shall ensure that his/her hair is never oily or greasy. The student may need to wash his/her hair daily to accomplish this.
6. Each student shall maintain clean nails, filed evenly in length.

BASIC GUIDELINES

Students *must wear* the following:

1. Appropriately worn and sized clothing which completely covers shoulders, abdomen, back, cleavage, and undergarments always when sitting or standing.
2. Appropriate undergarments – which should not be seen.

Students *may not wear* the following:

1. "Gothic," occult, negative, violent themes and images, or secular bands.
2. Lettering on the rear end of clothing.
3. Pajama tops or bottoms (except on privilege days – MUST be modest).
4. House shoes, slippers, or flip flops (except on privilege days).
5. Tight, form fitting articles of clothing such as bike shorts or yoga pants.
6. Any article of clothing that has holes that are not permanently repaired.
7. Oversized / baggy / sagging articles of clothing.
8. Athletic attire of any kind outside of PE clothing during PE.
9. Sunglasses may not be worn inside the building.
10. Hoodies (other than as a jacket to/from school)

SHIRTS

1. All shirts as a part of the regular dress code may be worn un-tucked.
2. All shirts must completely cover shoulders, abdomen, back, cleavage, and undergarments always when sitting or standing.
3. T-Shirts may be worn during P.E. The t-shirts may not be "gothic," occult, negative, violent themes and images, secular bands, or contain any graphics with questionable content.

PANTS/ SLACKS / SHORTS

1. Athletic shorts may be worn only during P.E.
2. All pants/shorts, etc. must be in good repair and neatly hemmed (no fraying). Patches/repairs must be permanent.
3. No holes, sagging, oversized, or tight pants/shorts are permitted.
4. Longer compression shorts are encouraged under sports shorts.
5. Short Lengths:
 - K4 & K5: at least mid-thigh
 - 1st – 12th: 2" above the knee when standing

GIRLS CLOTHING

1. Dresses must completely cover shoulders, abdomen, back, cleavage, and undergarments always when sitting or standing.
2. Shorts/spandex must be worn under dresses and skirts.
3. Dress and skirt lengths are to be no more than 2 inches above the knee when standing. If a dress or skirt cannot be found that is no more than 2 inches about the knee, slacks/pants are to be worn.
4. K4 – 2nd Level students: May wear mid-thigh length solid color dresses or skirts if leggings or spandex are worn under the skirt.
5. 3rd – 12th Level students: May wear solid color uniform dresses or skirts 3" above the knee if leggings are worn underneath.
6. Slacks (in colors of khaki, black, navy, gray or any other neutral color) or shorts that are knee length may be worn.
7. Jewelry cannot be excessive. Small, simple earrings are permitted. Jewelry that is contrary to our Christian school philosophy is prohibited.
8. Girls' shirts must be a print or solid color polo-style with collar, long or short sleeves. Button-up blouses with a collar may also be worn. All shirts & blouses must be properly buttoned.
9. All clothing should coordinate together.

BOYS CLOTHING

1. Boys should wear slacks/shorts (colors of khaki, black, navy, gray or any other neutral color). There should be no holes in clothing.
2. Boys' shirts must be a print or solid color polo-style with collar, long or short sleeves. Button-up shirts with a collar may also be worn.
3. Shirts must be buttoned. Belts must be worn if the shirt is worn tucked in.

CHAPEL DRESS CODE

Boys must wear a button-down, solid or print oxford shirt with a tie.

Boys must wear slacks (colors of khaki, black, navy, gray or any other neutral color). No shorts may be worn.

Girls must wear a dress, skirt or capri or full-length dressy romper that complies with the dress code.

FOOTWEAR

No excessively thick-soled or “clunky” shoes. Girls may wear sandals, a dress shoe, a loafer type shoe, a dress boot, or an approved athletic shoe with a non-scuffing sole. Boys may wear dress boots, dress shoes, sandals, or an approved athletic shoe with a non-scuffing sole. In the interest of safety and good hygiene, flip flops and “Heelys” are not permitted. Socks must always be worn, except with sandals. **Note: K4-Level 2 must wear tennis shoes only Monday-Wednesday.**

SPECIAL EVENT DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

The administration may identify events and days when compliance with announced special event dress code guidelines will be required. These events and days include, but will not be limited to:

- Picture Days/Re-takes
- Special Events/Chapels/Concerts
- Awards Assemblies
- Special Field Trips

Special Event Dress

Boys:

- Pants: Slacks or dress jeans (NO patches or frays and NO shorts)
- Shirts: Oxford shirt
- Shoes: Athletic, casual, or dress shoes (NO athletic slides or sandals)

Girls:

- Pants: Slacks or dress jeans (NO patches or frays and NO shorts)
- Dresses or Skirt and top: Skirt lengths are to be no more than 2 inches above the knee when standing.
- Shoes: Athletic, casual, or dress shoes (NO athletic slides)

OUTERWEAR

All coats, jackets, and sweaters worn to school must be clean and in good repair. Color should not be distracting if worn in the Learning Center.

If a difference of opinion should arise, parents and students shall yield to the discretion of the principal to make the final decision.

PE and ATHLETIC UNIFORMS

Athletic clothing should be worn by students in the Intermediate and Upper Learning Centers for P.E. Athletic shorts must be to the knee. No tank tops are allowed. Shirts may be athletic shirts or T-shirts. Athletic shoes and socks are required. A quality, cross-trainer shoe is recommended for sports and PE. No leggings are allowed.

GROOMING GUIDELINES FOR BOYS

1. Boys must wear a standard haircut. Hair must be off the collar, off the ears, and in a manner that will not impair vision. The top length should be no longer than 2-1/2". The side length should be trimmed above the ear. The hair may not touch the eyebrows in the front and the shirt collar in the back. Sideburns may not be any longer than the middle of the ear and must be kept trimmed. Boys may not have facial hair, ponytails, or "man buns." Extreme hairstyles, including an insignia shaved into hair is not permitted. No strange or faddish haircuts (including faux hawks) will be allowed. No dyed, tinted or colored hair will be permitted. This haircut code is explicit and narrow in its interpretation. It has been deliberately designed to be so. Recent trends in men's hairstyles have been effeminate, careless, and expressive of a lack of personal standards. ACS is not concerned with the latest trends or fads. We only support a standard, conservative haircut. Experience has already proven this to be a desirable approach in the business community and in helping to train young men for God.
2. The school administrator reserves the right to require a student to get a haircut or change the style or color if, in the judgment of the administration, the student's choice is not appropriate.
3. Excessive jewelry will not be allowed. Boys may never wear earrings while enrolled at ACS.
4. Hats or sunglasses may not be worn inside the building.
5. Boys must be clean-shaven.

Note: No facial or body piercings (i.e. nose, eyebrow, tongue, or gauges) or tattoos will be allowed.

GROOMING GUIDELINES FOR GIRLS

1. Girls must keep their hair neat and clean and styled in a conservative manner that will not impair vision. No strangely dyed, tinted, or colored hair, hair jewelry (i.e. beads, tinsel, etc.), strange haircuts or strange hairstyles will be allowed. Hair bows and headbands that coordinate with the outfit are permissible. The school administrator reserves the right to require a student to get a haircut or change the style or color if, in the judgment of the administration, the student's choice is not appropriate.
2. Girls may wear light makeup beginning in the 6th level. Colors used should be conservative and makeup should never be worn heavily and should never be excessively bright.
3. Nail color may be worn if it is not chipped. Nails should be trimmed and filed to an even length and should never be excessively long.
4. No false eye lashes or glitter on eyes or in hair is permitted.

Note: No facial or body piercings (i.e. nose, eyebrow, tongue, or gauges) or tattoos will be allowed.