

Dress and Appearance Policy

Grades 7-12

(8-16-17)

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 Secondary 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 code violation warnings. **The school administration reserves the right to make the final decision in regard to questionable dress or appearance.** The dress code policy includes (*revisions in bold*):

- Footwear must be worn at all times. Flip flops, sandals and soccer slides are considered shoes.
- 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.
- 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.
- **Tank tops (without a sleeved over garment)** 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**.
- Pants are to be worn at proper waist level. “Bag and sag” or “low-riders” are not acceptable (underwear should not be showing). Athletic warm-up pants are not included in the definition of pants.
- Collars are **not** required on shirts/tops/sweaters. **No sleeveless shirts (unless worn with a sleeved over garment).**
- Jeans (denim) are not normally permitted. However, on designated days, jeans will be permitted that otherwise meet the appearance standards outlined here.
- Clothing worn to school cannot have negative or immoral messages, or drug, alcohol, or suggestive insignias or messages. Insignias or messages on the buttocks portion of pants/slacks/shorts are **not** permitted.
- Clothing must not have tears, holes, tatters, or abrasions.
- **Headwear (e.g. hats, caps, visors, hoods, bandanas, etc.)** are not to be worn **indoors** during school hours.
- Spandex, **leggings** and similar form-fitting (clingy) apparel must not be worn **alone** as an outer garment. It may **only** be worn if covered by clothing that meets **other** stated **dress code length/style** requirements. Clothing designed to be an under garment must not be worn as an outer garment.
- Girls **only** may wear earrings. This is the only allowable pierced jewelry.
- Hair must be well-groomed, neat, and clean at all times. Hair must be a natural color. Extreme hair cuts or hair styles (**e.g. man bun, guys pony tails, mohawks, etc.**) are not permitted. **Boys’ hair length is to be worn above the eyebrows in the front and not below the top of a shirt collar in the back.**
- Facial hair is to be neatly groomed.
- Extreme jewelry (e.g., dog collars, wallet chains, etc.) is not permitted.
- Dress at extracurricular activities must be in keeping with the activity and with the spirit and intent of the dress and appearance standards of PCA as outlined here.
- The approved PE uniform must be worn for physical education classes only. Athletic shoes with socks are required.
- **Swim suits – Girls: modest, one piece / Guys: loose fitting Bermuda length/style.**
- Any tattoos must be covered and not visible.

Those who enroll at PCA 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.