

2022-2023
Standard of Dress



FRIENDSHIP

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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RATIONALE

Scripture does not specifically stipulate how we should dress. However, God's Word does call us to be imitators of God (I Cor. 11:1), to be modest in our appearance (I Tim. 2:9), to do things in an orderly fashion (I Cor. 14:40), and to bring honor to Him (I Cor. 10:31). A Standard of Dress is one of the ways that Friendship Christian School seeks to meet these commands.

The purpose of our Standard of Dress is to establish a high benchmark of modesty, decorum, and academic excellence.

We believe that a Standard of Dress creates an environment conducive to learning, fosters a greater sense of community among our student body, better equips students for future education and employment expectations, as well as creates a safer school environment by making it easier to identify trespassers.

Two primary principles lay the foundation for our Standards of Dress:

1. Respect for self.

We believe that students should learn to dress appropriately for the setting in which they are. Styles that primarily emphasize self-comfort are not conducive for the school setting in which students are encouraged to present themselves neatly and respectfully within the standard.

2. Respect for others.

One of the principle tenets of a Christ-like attitude is love for our neighbor.

As such:

- We believe that wearing clothing that is modest demonstrates an attitude of respect for others.
- We believe that choosing not to wear clothing that makes extreme political statements or causes arguments or divisiveness demonstrates respect for others and fosters a greater sense of unity within our school.

In an effort to be consistent with and to simplify our school dress, we are providing these principles and asking students and their families to apply these principles on an individual basis.

PLEASE NOTE:

We encourage parents/students to purchase items in a slightly larger size to allow for the inevitable growth that happens throughout the year. Please reach out to the school in advance if you have any questions about a particular item before removing tags and/or wearing the item to school.

All students are required to dress according to their biological sex. Please contact the following if you have any questions: Mrs. Frazier, Mrs. Raley, the office.

****The administration reserves the right to address Standard of Dress violations on an individual basis and to make modifications as needed.****

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Students must arrive, remain, and leave school in appropriate apparel.
- Students are expected to follow the appropriate school Standard of Dress while attending school functions on or off-campus, including athletic games (at home or away), field-trips, school concerts and/or programs, award ceremonies, etc.
- When attending athletic games as spectators, whether at home or away, or at any official FCS event, FCS students are expected to follow the guidelines outlined in this document.
- Students who do not follow the expected Standard of Dress for chapels/award ceremonies or special occasions may not be allowed to participate in stated events (i.e. students may not be allowed to receive their awards on stage nor attend the special occasion at the discretion of the administration).
- Clothing should be relaxed/loose fitted, not form-fitting. Specific guidelines noted ahead.
- No symbols or graphics related to dark spiritual themes and death such as ghosts, witchcraft, skulls and crossbones, blood and gore, etc. are allowed.
- No camouflage permitted.
- No holes (fish nets, rips, frays, etc.) permitted.
- Blankets are not to be brought to school.
- Logos may be no larger than the size of the palm of a hand.

HAIR, FOOTWEAR, & JEWELRY

HAIR / GROOMING

- Hair is to be a natural color, clean and neat, avoiding extremes in styles and any style associated with an anti-biblical lifestyle, group, or movement.
- Hair should be combed neatly and cut regularly.
- Any coloring or styling that cannot be corrected may result in the student being removed from attendance until corrected.

Young men:

- Hair is not to be over the eyebrows, ears, or shirt collar.
- Face is to be clean shaven.

JEWELRY / ACCESSORIES / TATTOOS

- Body piercings are not permitted in students with the exception of ladies' ears. Ladies may wear up to three piercings per ear.
- Hats/head coverings, sunglasses, or glasses without lenses may not be worn in the academic buildings.
- Any type of tattoo, whether permanent or temporary, on any part of the body is not allowed. This policy includes writing or drawings with ink pens, markers, etc.
- **Young ladies'** jewelry and make-up should be modest and in good taste, no excessive styles are permitted.
- **Young men** may not wear make-up or jewelry (e.g. necklaces, earrings, or other body piercings) at school or at school functions. An exception will be made regarding stage make-up for those performing in the school play.

FOOTWEAR

- Footwear is to be worn at all times.
- No flip-flop, Crocs, or athletic slide style footwear is permitted.
- Sneaker style shoes **MUST** be worn during PE class. Students will not be permitted to participate if they are wearing improper shoes.
- **Young men** must wear closed-toe shoes.
- **Young ladies** may wear sandals.

Elementary School (TK4-5th): Footwear Standard Exception

All elementary students

- Athletic style shoes are preferred every day, but **REQUIRED** on PE day.
- Shoes must have backs to them.
- No flip-flops, Crocs, slides, or high heels are allowed.
- Athletic or dress shoes are allowed.

TK4 students

- Socks are not required.
- Athletic style shoes preferred.

TOPS

General Principles for ALL Students

- Tops should be worn with a relaxed/semi-to-loose fit, not form-fitting.
- Tops may not have any graphics, logos, or wording larger than the size of the palm of a hand.
- FCS hoodies and sweatshirts may be worn in class; other hoodies and jackets may be worn as long as the logo is not larger than the size of the wearer's hand palm AND is not contrary to FCS principles. Hoods are to remain down at all times during the school day.
- Clothing worn under a hoodie or sweatshirt must meet dress standards.
- Tops may not be see-thru or sheer.
- At no time may a student wear clothing that reveals undergarments, undergarment lines, or any other clothing that is not acceptable if worn alone, under the shirt (e.g. white shirt should have flesh tone undergarment or tank underneath to meet the required standard).
- No low-cut tops, crop-tops, cutouts, etc.
- Tops may not reveal the midriff in any way. If the shirt is not tucked in, it must be long enough to fully cover the midriff when the student raises their hands over their head and clearly overlap the bottom garment's belt/waistline.
- Students may not wear FCS PE shirts or other FCS t-shirts during regular school days.

TOPS CONT.

Young Ladies' Tops Specifics

- The neckline may in no way reveal the young lady's cleavage.
- The back of the shirt or dress should go no lower than the front of the shirt or dress.
- Clothing that resembles undergarments (e.g. lingerie tops, bralettes, sports bra, etc.) may not be worn as outerwear or visible under layers.
- No off-shoulder tops or other styles that do not have coverage are permitted (i.e. no tank tops, no spaghetti straps, no halter tops, no strapless tops, no open backs, no camis, etc.).
- Sleeveless shirts (shirt without sleeves) are permitted. However, these tops must have straps that are at least three fingers wide according to the person wearing the top (from the neckline to the edge of the shirt).

Young Men's Tops Specifics

- Collared shirts must be worn at all times during the school day.
- Shirts should fit properly and be worn neatly.
- Untucked shirts/tops may not hang excessively below the waistline.

Elementary School (TK4-5th) Tops Standard Exception

All elementary students may wear appropriate graphics and logos of any size that do not conflict with Biblical principles, including those noted on page 1.

TK4 boys may wear shirts with or without a collar.

See PE section for elementary school exception regarding PE uniform.

BOTTOMS

General Principles for ALL Students

- Bottom MUST be worn relaxed and loose through the hip, bottom, thigh, and leg (not form-fitting).
- Bottoms must be worn at the natural waistline (no sagging or revealing undergarments). A belt is preferred, but not required.
- Pants must be longer than mid-calf in length (longer than capris).
- Undergarments should remain unseen at all times.
- Denim/jean bottoms of any color (pants), multi-pocket cargo-style pants, or pajama-style pants are not permitted.
- Yoga pants, leggings, jeggings are not allowed to be worn as pants during regular school hours, Activity Dress Days, Dress Down Days, or when attending an FCS sports games/school function (on or off campus).
- * Leisure wear not allowed during regular school hours (e.g. athletic pants/shorts, sweatpants/shorts, denim/jean pants/shorts).

** See PE section, Activity Dress Days / Dress Down Days section for exceptions to this standard.*

Skirts, Dresses, Skorts

- Ladies may wear dresses or skirts during the school day.
- The length and the slit, or bottom button of the dress or skirt, should be no higher than the top of the knee when standing and sitting. For high-low dress/skirt styles, this standard applies to the shortest part of the hem.
- Wrap-around skirts need to be secured and should not be revealing in nature (properly pinned or sewn to lay flat in wind or when sitting).
- Skorts must follow the same requirements as the skirts/dresses and look like a skirt.
- Dress t-shirts without writing are permitted. Must be relaxed/semi-to-loose fit (not form-fitting) and must meet the top of the knee length requirement.
- If leggings are worn under a dress or skirt, the skirt or dress must still meet the top of the knee length requirement (i.e. tunic top with leggings does not adhere to the FCS standard of dress).
- Young ladies should wear slips under their clothes, when necessary.

BOTTOMS CONT.

Young Men's Bottoms Specifics

- Young men must wear khakis or Docker-style slacks during school hours. No jeans will be allowed.

Young Ladies' Bottoms Specifics

- Pants must be longer than mid-calf in length (longer than capris).
- Young ladies may wear pants in various styles and colors that are relaxed and loose through the hip, bottom, thigh, and legs (not form-fitting).
- Dress styles not permitted include: Strapless dresses, halter dresses that reveal cleavage, crop-top dresses, backless dresses, spaghetti straps/sundresses (even if students have a shawl or jacket), dresses that are flesh tone or that have flesh tone inserts, or dresses that have a low scooped/cut back.

Young ladies who will be on stage for any event or ceremony, must wear a midi or maxi length skirt or dress.

Elementary School (TK4-5th) Bottoms Standard Exceptions

All elementary students

- May wear uniform style shorts during regular school hours.
- Shorts must be worn relaxed and loose (not form-fitting). Yoga shorts, legging style shorts, and jeggings style shorts are not allowed to be worn as shorts.
- Shorts must come to the TOP of the knee when standing.
- Yoga pants, leggings, and jeggings are not allowed to be worn as pants.

TK4 students

- May wear jeans or athletic pants during regular school hours.
- Approved clothing is only considered acceptable if the student is able to fasten/unfasten it by themselves to use the bathroom.

**See PE section for elementary school exception regarding PE uniform.*

PE UNIFORM

PE UNIFORM

General Principles for ALL Students

- Students may not wear PE shirts during the school day unless participating in PE class, sports practice or if the day has been designated as an Activity Dress Day or a Dress Down Day.

All students above 2nd grade are expected to wear an FCS PE top and FCS PE shorts or generic athletic pants* during PE class.

Advanced PE students may wear a t-shirt that adheres to FCS principles and athletic pants* or shorts** of their choosing.

* Athletic pants must be black (with or without white stripes along the side) and loose-fitted through the hip, bottom, thigh, and leg.

** Shorts must come 2 inches below the wearer's finger tip while standing. While actively participating in PE class, shorts may come no shorter than mid-thigh.

Elementary School (TK4-5th): PE Uniform Exceptions

TK4-2nd grade students will need to wear tennis shoes, but will wear the normal Standard of Dress clothing for their PE class.

On PE days, students may wear regular school attire that meets the guidelines established in this document for tops and bottoms.

Please note – Because of the nature of PE class, a pair of shorts or leggings may need to be worn underneath a young ladies' skirt or dress. The shorts should not be longer than the skirt. If leggings are worn, the skirt or dress must still meet the knee-length requirement.

3rd-5th grade students MUST wear their PE uniforms TO SCHOOL on PE days. During colder weather, students may choose to wear loose-fitting black athletic pants (may have white stripes along the sides).

ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC SPORTS UNIFORMS & FCS STUDENT SPECTATORS

FCS Team Athletes

- Athletes will be given an FCS uniform to wear for the season. Some sports teams will be given a top and bottom, other teams may only receive a top.
- Uniform shorts must be worn at the natural waistline.
- Bottoms of uniform shorts may not be tucked up into undergarments or compression shorts.
- Athletic practice shorts must come 2 inches below the wearer's fingertip while standing. While actively participating in official team practices/games, shorts may come no shorter than mid-thigh.

FCS Student Spectators

- FCS student spectators may wear casual clothing that adheres to the FCS general principles.
- FCS student spectators may wear shorts that come 2 inches below the wearer's fingertip while standing.
- FCS student spectators may wear t-shirts.

ACTIVITY DRESS & DRESS DOWN DAYS

Yoga pants/shorts, legging pants/shorts, jegging pants/shorts are not allowed to be worn during regular school hours, Dress Down Days, Activity Dress Days, or when attending an FCS sports games/school function (on or off campus).

Activity Dress

Activity Dress is defined as days in which students are allowed to dress in casual attire, but **MUST** adhere to a **SPECIFIC** casual dress standard (e.g. field-trips, outings, field-days, boosterthon, walk-event).

Activity wear will be determined by event, season, and age group and will be communicated to parents before the event.

Dress Down

Dress Down is defined as days in which students are allowed to dress in casual attire and are not *LIMITED TO THE SPECIFIC CASUAL DRESS SELECTION* noted for Activity Dress (e.g. fundraising Fridays, certain class trips, or other days as announced throughout the year)

Students may wear:

- Leisure wear (e.g. athletic pants/shorts, sweatpants/shorts, casual pants/shorts, denim-jeans/shorts).
- Shorts must come to the top of the knee.
- Bottoms must be relaxed and loose through the hip, bottom, thigh, and leg (not form-fitting).
- Shirts or sweatshirts with writing/graphics that do not conflict with FCS principles.

** Clothing and hair/grooming should meet the school's standard of dress as noted in the sections above, including, but not limited to, appropriate fit.*

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

General Principles for ALL Students

- Hair/grooming should meet the school's standard as noted in the sections above.
- Undergarments should remain unseen.
- In order to avoid misunderstandings and potential embarrassment on the day of certain events, FCS will host a REQUIRED dress check prior to some events. Dates will be announced by the FCS teacher/staff leading the event.
- Alterations are permitted. However, alterations must be done before the approval date. All dresses/outfits that have been altered must be tried on again after the alteration in order to be approved.
- FCS is not responsible for the cost of any alterations incurred to meet FCS's Standard of Dress. Before removing tags, please reach out to the school with any questions about a particular item.
- Students that arrive at events in dresses/outfits that do not align with what was submitted and approved may be asked to leave the event without a refund of the cost incurred to attend.

Regular Chapel Days

- Young ladies are to wear dresses or skirts that meet the Standard of Dress guidelines noted.
- Young men are to wear a button-down shirt and a tie or bow tie that meet the Standard of Dress guidelines noted.

Elementary School (TK4-5th) Chapel Days Exceptions

All elementary students may wear *REGULAR* school attire that meets the guidelines established above for tops and bottoms.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS CONT.

Homecoming

SEMI-FORMAL EVENING ATTIRE (OR FORMAL IF DESIRED) IS EXPECTED FOR THIS EVENT.

- **Young men** are to wear a dress shirt, dress pants, and tie or bow tie, along with dress shoes. Suit coats optional.
- **Young ladies** are to wear a skirt, dress, or loose-fitting dress jumpsuit. Gowns, formal attire, or professional pantsuits are also acceptable.

**See Junior/Senior Banquet section for guidelines regarding dress selection.

* *Leisure wear is not permitted for this event (e.g. athletic pants/shorts, jogging pants/shorts, sweat pants/short, casual pants/short, blue jean pants/shorts).*

Junior/Senior Banquet

FORMAL EVENING ATTIRE IS EXPECTED FOR THIS EVENT.

- **Young men** are to wear tuxedos, suits, or jackets/dress slacks, an oxford style dress shirt, tie or bowtie, and dress shoes. Shirts are to be buttoned up to the collar.

T-shirts, polo style shirts, jeans, athletic pants, athletic shoes, and see-through apparel is not permitted.

- **Young ladies** are to wear a dress.
- The length of the dress may be knee-length, midi-length, or maxi-length.
- The dress may be long-sleeve, short-sleeve, sleeveless, or halter (so long as the halter provides the proper coverage in the front and the back and reveals no cleavage).
- Dresses must be no lower than 3 inches below the collarbone in front and no lower than the standard bra line in the back.
- Dresses with slits are to come to the top of the knee.
- Dresses should have a full fabric back below the standard bra line – not sheer.
- Proper undergarments must be worn and should remain unseen.

Dress styles not permitted for this event include: strapless dresses, halter dresses, crop top dresses (midriffs must be covered), backless gowns and/or spaghetti straps (even if students have a shawl or jacket), dresses that are flesh tone or that have flesh tone inserts, or dresses that have a low scooped/cut back.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS CONT.

Graduation Ceremony / Cap & Gown Pictures

SEMI-FORMAL EVENING ATTIRE (OR FORMAL IF DESIRED) IS EXPECTED FOR THIS EVENT.

- **Graduating young men** are to wear a dress shirt, dark dress pants, and tie or bow tie, along with dress shoes. Suit coats optional.
- **Graduating young ladies** are to wear a midi/mid calf-length dress or skirt.
- The dress may be long-sleeve, short-sleeve, sleeveless, or halter (so long as the halter provides the proper coverage in the front and the back and reveals no cleavage).
- Dresses must be no lower than 3 inches below the collarbone in front and no lower than the standard bra line in the back.
- Dresses with slits are to come to the top of the knee.
- Dresses should have a full fabric back below the standard bra line – not sheer.
- Proper undergarments must be worn and should remain unseen.

Dress styles not permitted for this event include: strapless dresses, halter dresses that reveal cleavage, crop top dresses (midriffs must be covered), backless gowns and/or spaghetti straps (even if students have a shawl or jacket), dresses that are flesh tone or that have flesh tone inserts, or dresses that have a low scooped/cut back.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

While we recognize that everyone has their own individual and personal convictions regarding dress standards and modesty, we have established these standards in an effort to maintain an effective learning environment for all of our students.

Parent(s)/guardians and students are expected to support the standards that we have established as part of their participation in and attendance at FCS. Our goal will be to address Standards of Dress violations early in the day, but they may be addressed at any time.

We will strive to do everything we can to avoid causing public embarrassment of a student. The easiest way to avoid an uncomfortable or embarrassing situation is to be sure that clothing meets the Standard of Dress before coming to school.

The following steps will be taken if a student wears something to school that does not meet the FCS Standards of Dress:

- 1st Offense – Warning (verbal and/or email) – the student may be sent to the office until a change of clothes can be obtained to correct the issue. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may be contacted via phone call to bring a change of clothes if the student does not have one available.
- 2nd Offense - Demerit(s) assigned (student and parent(s)/guardians will be informed of the violation details by email communication) – the student may be sent to the office until a change of clothes can be obtained to correct the issue. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may be contacted via phone call to bring a change of clothes if the student does not have one available.
- 3rd Offense - Demerit(s) + Student and Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be asked to meet with a school representative to discuss the root cause of the continuing issue.
- Issue Continues - Referral to administration for evaluation and next steps. If the issue escalates to this point, it may be assumed that there is an unwillingness to support the rules and guidelines of FCS and student may face removal from attendance at FCS.