

Dress Code

Students and parents should understand that the purpose of this dress code is intended to protect the hearts, minds, and eyes of our students and staff during their day together. When it comes to the subject of modest clothing, the first question we should ask ourselves is: What am I trying to accomplish by what I wear? Above all, modesty is ultimately a reflection of the heart. Our outer appearance should reflect the inner reality of our relationship with Jesus Christ and our desire to honor Him. Immodesty can stem from an obsession with self, the intention to be noticed, lack of consideration for others, and/or lack of self-control and self-esteem. Furthermore, as Christians, we are under the watchful eye of our unbelieving neighbors and should be set apart, not out of a self-righteousness, but out of a love for others and Christ. 1 Peter 2:12 states, "Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world."

For all the above reasons and those that follow, GCA has a dress code:

- To focus on learning
- To encourage virtues like humility, simplicity, and respect for others
- To discourage vices like pride, materialism, and sensuality
- To remind students of the seriousness of scholarly work. The dress code begins the process of learning to honor guidelines for work attire that may be different from your own preferences.
- To demonstrate (as research shows) that higher standards of dress increases achievement
- To help create a sense of community and unity on campus
- To develop a modest way of life

Students and parents should be careful to follow the dress code so that staff can focus on learning rather than discussing violations with students and parents. Because it is the job of our staff to maintain an edifying learning environment that supports GCA's mission, vision and philosophy of education, parental support is critical in training children to learn to submit to authority in situations that may not fit their personal style of dress, such as in the workplace. With that said, the school also wants to help in whatever way to come alongside your children to adhere to the dress code. If this dress code will be a financial or excessive burden on your family in any way, then please contact the administrator for options for us to come alongside to help. Ultimately, the dress code is a means to honor God by encouraging Christian virtues in the way we present ourselves to each other and the world, not to be a point of contention and discouragement among families and the school. Thank you for submitting to GCA's dress code policy and helping us to honor God in all we do!

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Dress Code requirements are to be adhered to during the school day and all school related events. Ultimately the head administrator will have the final decision in all dress code circumstances including special privileges that can be administered during the school year like "casual Fridays."
2. Students are to be cleanly dressed, groomed well, and show healthy hygiene (see Hygiene section).
3. Clothing should have no pictures, symbols, or any writing. Clothing can have modest sparkles, flowers, organic patterns (plants/animals), and geometric shapes.
4. Small logos on shirts, pants and socks, at a diameter of one inch or less, are acceptable.
5. Students should not expect to use tape to cover anything that does not follow the dress code. It either follows the dress code or it shouldn't be worn.
6. Clothing must be in good condition without stains, holes, or frayed edges.
7. Careful attention should be paid by both boys and girls that shirts and pants not be revealing when lifting, sitting, or bending over.
8. Undergarments are not to show, nor are midriffs. Belts should be worn as needed to prevent this.
9. Clothing should not be revealing or so tight that it clearly reveals/accentuates a student's body features.
10. Sunglasses, hats, coats, jackets, and hoods are not to be worn except in preparation to go outdoors. Points 3-6 above still pertain to anything worn outside.
11. Visible tattoos and drawing on oneself & clothes are not permitted.
12. Grace Christian Academy polo shirts for 6th level and up and t-shirts for 5th level and down are allowed.

PANTS/SHORTS:

1. Pants must be solid colors.

2. Cargo pants in solid colors are acceptable.
3. Jeans are acceptable as long as they are solid colored and do not appear to be worn out or faded. Jeans should not have any holes or be extremely tight fitting to accentuate body form.
4. 6th level and up: Athletic pants/leggings are not allowed with the exception that they can be worn under skirts or with untucked shirts hanging over to the thigh. They must be a solid color.
5. 5th level and down: Athletic pants may be worn. Leggings can only be worn under skirts or with untucked shirts hanging over to the thigh.
6. On warm days in August, September, May & June, shorts may be worn but should be no shorter than the top of the knee when standing. 6th level and up must wear semi-casual shorts; no athletic shorts. 5th level and down can wear semi-casual shorts or athletic shorts. If needed, any special changes will be made by the administrator based on especially hot weather forecasts.

SHOES/SOCKS:

1. All students must wear closed toe/closed heel shoes during the school day. Unless it is a special occasion, footwear such as sandals, flip flops, crocs, high heels, or any other variation of open toe/open heel footwear is not allowed.
2. 6th level and up: Shoes must be dress shoes or modest appearing crossover dress/boot/athletic shoes. Small logos at a diameter of one inch or less are acceptable. With the exception of PE classes, athletic shoes are not allowed.
3. 5th level and down: Athletic shoes are acceptable. Otherwise shoes must be dress shoes or modest appearing crossover shoes.
4. No light up shoes or roller wheel shoes are allowed.
5. Shoes must be tied at all times.
6. Socks need to be of modest colors and design. Logos at a diameter of one inch or less are acceptable.

BOYS ONLY:

1. Hair for boys needs to be neatly trimmed and clean in appearance and should not extend below the eyebrows, earlobes or below the collar.
2. Facial hair styles (mustaches, beards, goatees, etc.) are not allowed. All boys must be clean shaven while in school.
3. For both boys and girls, extreme hair fads, colors and styles are not permitted including anything deemed detracting from the learning environment, such as afros, mohawks, long spikes, and others as deemed necessary.
4. 5th level and down: No jewelry (bracelets, necklaces, rings, etc.) is allowed during the school day.
5. No piercings allowed.
6. 6th level and up:
 - A. Shirts must be collared. Knit cotton polos are acceptable as well as dress shirts. Nice sweaters and crewneck sweatshirts (not sports sweatshirts or hoodies) are also acceptable. For the LegacyMaking Academy (9-12), required tops from the approved GCA wardrobe are required.
 - B. Only one piece of modest jewelry (bracelet, ring, or necklace) is allowed during the school day.

GIRLS ONLY:

1. Skirts must be knee-length or longer, modest, and appropriate for the day's activities.
2. Solid light shades of neutral color nail polish are allowed. No acrylic or fake nails allowed.
3. No unnatural hair colors are allowed.
4. Hair accessories should follow the rules about color for other clothing.
5. One earring per ear of a diameter or length less than 1 inch is allowed. No other body piercings are permitted.
6. 5th level and down:
 - A. Along with one pair of earrings, one other piece of modest jewelry in the form of a bracelet or necklace is allowed.
 - B. Shorts or leggings must be worn under skirts.
7. 6th level and up:
 - A. Along with earrings, modest jewelry in amount and appearance is allowed to be worn each day (i.e. extra earrings, bracelet, ring, necklace, etc.). Jewelry should not be displayed or worn in an excessive manner or in a way that would bring attention to oneself.

- B. Make-up is allowed with neutral tones and should not be worn in an excessive manner. That is, it should hardly be noticeable. No sparkles are allowed.
- C. Shirts must be short sleeve or longer and semi-casual (no T-shirts). Knit cotton polos are acceptable as well as dress shirts. Nice sweaters and crewneck sweatshirts (not sweatshirts or hoodies) are also acceptable. For the LegacyMaking Academy (9-12), required tops from the approved GCA wardrobe are required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

5th level and down: For physical education, parents of elementary students should try to make sure that students are wearing clothing and shoes that promote physical movement during PE days. Thus, skirts, dresses and dress shoes should be avoided on PE days. You will be notified of your child's schedule so that you can plan for this.

6th level and up: All students will have school issued uniforms for physical education class. The uniform will consist of a GCA t-shirt and student athletic pants/shorts that are school approved. The uniforms will be kept at school but must be taken home at the end of the week to be washed. Athletic shoes must be brought to school to wear for class. All GCA t-shirts must be washed and returned at the end of the school year.

DISCIPLINE:

GCA students are expected to follow the dress code. Students violating the dress code will be required to wear school supplied over-clothing at the sole discretion of the school administrator throughout the remainder of the school day. In addition, the following procedures will be administered to students when the dress code is not followed:

5th level and down:

- 1st violation: parent contact
- 2nd violation: parent contact & parent must bring a change of clothes
- 3rd violation: student is sent home and/or suspension

6th level and up:

- 1st violation: verbal warning to student from teacher and/or administrator
- 2nd violation: parent contact
- 3rd violation: student is sent home and/or suspension