

GCA Dress Code

Dress Code Principles

#1 Parents are the authority over their children. (*Exodus 12, Colossians 3, Ephesians 6*)

#2 GCA must do its best to have a biblical, safe, and thriving school community that avoids exposing students to anything that might cause them to sin. (*1 Cor 8, Luke 17; Philippians 4*)

#3 GCA will do its best to balance Principle #1 and Principle #2.

Teachers may alert the administration of any dress code concerns. The administration reserves the right to interpret all dress code policies and make final decisions regarding student attire. The ultimate goal of this policy is to create a school atmosphere that both honors the Lord and provides an excellent atmosphere for learning.

Dress Code Education

Part of each student's education in Bible classes will be a discussion on what is appropriate to wear from a biblical standpoint, focusing on the responsibility of both genders to discipline themselves when it comes to peer influence, negative influences, and lustful thoughts or actions. This discipline will be necessary outside the walls of GCA, so parents and staff must work together to teach students how to handle themselves in the world.

Dress Code Guidelines

Student appearance should be: **ARM**

1) Appropriate (safe; no promotion of sinful, evil, dark, illegal, or negative ideas)

2) Respectful (honoring to the Christian faith and conducive to a Christian learning environment)

3) Modest (avoiding undue attention and tight-fitting clothing, no undergarments, stomach, or cleavage showing, no spaghetti or strapless tops)

FAQ's

1. Are athletic shorts and sweatpants permitted? **YES, as long as the ARM guidelines are followed.**
2. Are leggings/yoga pants permitted? **YES, as long as a top/shirt is worn that reaches mid-thigh.**
3. Can boys wear earrings or have body piercings? **No**
4. Can girls have body piercings other than ears? **No**
5. Can jeans have holes and frays? **Yes, as long as the ARM guidelines are followed.**

Dress Code Applied

Here are some sample scenarios to help you understand how we will approach how we will make decisions under the dress code.

Example 1: Mia can't decide whether or not to dye her hair lime green and spike it into a mohawk or to wear her new full-size purple sombrero to school. She realizes that both would be considered **inappropriate** (distracting in class). Instead, she decides to dye it gray and spike it. ALL HAIR SHOULD BE NEAT AND NATURAL LOOKING.

Example 2: Nicole wants to wear her new flip flops to school. But she's only in **2nd grade** and has recess twice a day; it would be **inappropriate** to try to climb the slide ladder or play soccer in them. She decides to wait until 6th grade to wear them when she no longer has a recess.

Example 3: Evander is really into the 80s, especially the Bowflex, spandex (leggings), and short shorts. He wants to show off his sculpted body but can't decide which to wear on the first day of school. Spandex/leggings are form-fitting and leave little to the imagination; short shorts don't even require imagination. He decides that either would be **disrespectful** to people who would have to look at him and **immodest**. Instead, he decides to wear athletic shorts that reach at least mid-thigh.

Example 4: Andy is obsessed with music. He gets a new Guns 'n' Roses shirt and wants to wear it on the first day of school. It has 5 skulls hanging on a cross and says *Appetite for Destruction*. He reads the new dress code guidelines and decides that the visual message of the shirt is not really **respectful** to his Christian faith and might **inappropriately** scare the elementary kids. He opts instead to wear his new Pink Floyd shirt. The shirt is appropriate visually because it is just a prism with a beam of light going through it.

Example 5: Danielle gets some new back-to-school jeans that have holes in them. She reads the dress code guidelines and realizes that she shouldn't wear the ones with the big hole up on her thigh that shows her pockets because it leads everyone's eyes into her personal space. That would be **immodest, inappropriate, and disrespectful**; 3 for 3! Instead, she decides to wear a pair that has holes in the knees. Nothing immodest, inappropriate, or disrespectful there!