



"Do it heartily as to the Lord." Col. 3:23

VCCHS Dress Code 2022-23

Valley Christian believes that our students' appearance impacts their attitude at school. Respect for our Christian school community, for one another, and for the collective learning environment is demonstrated by an attitude of "dressing up" rather than "dressing down" for the job of being a "student."

The dress code is not based on Biblical principles, but rather on a shared communal understanding of a school learning environment. We seek to balance institutional preferences with the freedom of personal choice in order to achieve the finest learning environment possible in our shared Quest for Excellence. We want to teach our students how to make personal attire decisions within the boundaries of a community's expectations.

Parents are surveyed to gauge where the Dress Code should be set. Our goal is that the dress code provides enough range and is clear enough that students should be able to dress comfortably for school without fear of unnecessary discipline or body shaming.

The dress code also supports an educational environment that promotes unity among students and avoids a segmented student body. This purpose disallows attire representing images, messages, or other meanings that are inconsistent with representing the Valley Christian Philosophy of Christian Education. Exceptions are not granted for religious reasons.

Approved Attire for All Students

- Sweatshirts, collared shirts, and t-shirts
- Logos or words that are aligned with the VCCHS Biblical Unity slogan policy or are neutral
- Jeans, slacks, or jogger-style pants
- Hemmed shorts that are not athletic or sweatshirt material
- Shorts with lengths that are indisputably longer than the student's fingertips when arms are down/longer than mid-thigh
- Footwear is to be worn at all times. Footwear should have adequate support for safety.
- General VC gear/VC branded attire that is within the VC dress code policies is allowed
- VC-approved team uniforms that are within the VC dress code *on game days only*. The HS administration must approve all athletic team outfits if they are to be worn on game day or everyday wear.

General Attire Standards

- So that our collective appearance displays an attitude of “dressing up,” all clothing, including jeans and jean jackets, should be:
 - Free of excessive rips or shredded materials.
 - For pants, no holes above the knee.
 - No large, gaping holes in clothing.
- No sheer or see-through material from armpit line to mid-thigh. See clarification for women below.
- No sleepwear (including slippers, **plain white undershirts**, and pajama bottoms)
- Clothing must be modest while on our campus, attending classes online, and at school events held off-campus.
- No fashion that is extreme (chains, collars, against social norms, etc.)
- Traditionally accepted gender attire or gender-neutral attire is allowed at dances and on campus (e.g. - women in a pant-suit is considered gender-neutral attire)

Tops

- No tank tops, camisoles, halter tops, strapless tops, or off-the-shoulder tops (note an exemption for women)
- Necklines should not fall below armpit level
- All parts of the stomach and back must be fully covered

Bottoms

- No sweatpants that are not VC Warrior Wear gear (see dress code for Spirit Week and Finals for exceptions)
- No stretch pants (see one exception for women)
- Belt line must be at the waistline. (No overly baggy/sagging pants)
- No athletic or sweatshirt material
- No skirts and shorts shorter than the student's fingertips when arms are down/mid-thigh
- No writing is allowed on the seat of clothing

Piercing, tattoos, and makeup

- No body piercing or facial piercings (see one exception for women) are allowed to be worn on campus.
- Gauges or spacers are not permitted
- Tattoos must be covered by normal clothing. Coverings such as bandages are not acceptable.
- No extreme use of make-up

Hair and head coverings

- No hairstyles with extreme cuts (i.e. mohawk)
- No unnatural hair colors
- No head coverings in class, the office, or in chapel (including sweatshirt hoods and hats)

- Hats should not be worn backward or sideways (even outside)
 - Short-term hair protection coverings may be allowed – check with the Dean of Students with questions

Biblical Unity Slogan Policy

- Garments should be free of inappropriate slogans, pictures, etc.
 - No drug or alcohol references, no violence, or profanity
 - No wording or pictures that would promote brands or concepts not appropriate for students under 18 (Cookies, Playboy, gambling, cigarettes, etc.)
 - Nothing antagonistic of the beliefs of others or hostile in nature, **including the promotion of social or political agendas** (educational, non-divisive, and Christian statements are not considered agendas that could be seen as antagonistic to other students)
 - We seek as a community to dialogue, educate, and communicate about areas with differing opinions rather than use attire as a billboard without the actions necessary to build relational understanding

Backpacks, hats, jackets, and other accessories should be chosen using the same guidelines as the rest of the VCHS dress code

Dress Code Specific for Men

- The natural length of hair must not extend below the middle of the ear, over the eyes, or over the top of the shirt collar. Sideburns must be no lower than the bottom of the ear. **Well-groomed long hair that is kept in a bun during school hours is allowed, but growing out hair to transition to a bun hairstyle during the school year will not be allowed.**
- The face is to be clean-shaven. If a student comes to school with facial hair, he will be asked to shave. Shaving waivers for different racial groups who are more susceptible to pseudo folliculitis barbae (PFB) can be granted to allow short facial hair. The parent must ask the Dean of Students for a waiver. VCHS does have a tradition that allows students to grow facial hair in the months of November and December that tradition will continue.
- Small stud earrings are permitted. No dangling or large earrings.

Dress Code for Women

- Stretch pants are prohibited unless paired with an indisputably long, loose top
- Nose piercings with a small (2mm) stud (no hoops) are permitted
- Dresses and dressy blouses can have thinner straps since you are “dressing up” for school (No halter-style tops, slip-style tops or dresses, or bodycon dresses. Dresses and tops can be layered with other clothing to create an appropriate outfit for a respected learning environment.) Skirts should meet the same expectations as shorts and dresses.

Distance Learning Dress Code

At home learners should not be distracting to the learning environment. They can wear comfortable attire but should be modest. Anything in the background of distance learners should be in keeping with the VCHS dress code and behavior expectations.

Dress Code for Spirit Weeks and Final Exams

VCHS intentionally relaxes the dress code five weeks each year: Homecoming Spirit Week, Christmas Spirit Week, Warrior Warz Spirit Week, and final exam weeks. During the spirit weeks, students can wear shorts, sweatpants, pajama bottoms, and tank tops if 1) the attire is aligned with the school spirit theme, 2) is in keeping with general "social norms" for modesty expectations, and 3) does not have any prohibited slogans. During final exams, students can wear sweatpants.

Dress Code for School Events

After school hours, the student dress code is relaxed to just be in keeping with general "social norms" for modesty expectations and free from prohibited slogans. This includes events such as: spectator attire at VCHS sporting events, attire while attending a Conservatory of the Arts performance, senior retreat, homecoming dance, senior sunset, etc. Please refer to the VCHS dance dress code for specific policies for Fall Ball and Prom attire.

Dress Code for Senior Events

- Seniors must use the VCHS-approved attire for the school yearbook published photo (graduation robe for all students)
- Seniors must wear their graduation robe formally zipped up for both Baccalaureate and Graduation

Dress Code Equity

Some policies are a "rule of thumb," such as length being longer than fingertips. VCHS understands that different body types might make some of these general policies not equitable for some students. Please email an administrator if you have a question or concern that is specific to you so we can work with you.

As with all VCHS discipline, logs of disciplinary dress code actions will regularly be submitted to the Office of Biblical Unity for a review to ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of gender, ethnicity, body type/size, and personal style.

Only same-gender staff will report dress code infractions. The staff has been trained on the dress code and our Biblical Unity principles. Their responsible professional judgement will be respected and trusted by both the administration and parents.

Dress Code Enforcement

VCS reserves the right to make the final decision regarding attire allowed at school or at school events.

All adults will work together to help students understand that the dress code is based on institutional preference and is not based on Biblical principles. This means dress code discipline is considered minor and will be treated as such by all adults (staff and parents).

A warning/reminder may be given before discipline is given, but extreme violations may be asked to change to attend class. Dress code violations will result in detention or other expectations. An attitude of defiance with repeated dress code violations may result in suspension or further escalated discipline.

Students whose attire does not meet the dress code standards at a school event may be asked to leave.