

## DRESS CODE 2023 - 2024

Valley Christian believes that a student's appearance has an impact on his or her attitude at school. Respect for our Christian school community, for the students themselves, 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."

Dress code is not based on Biblical principles, but rather on communally shared school learning environment standards. Our goal is to balance 1) institutional preferences with 2) freedom of personal choice to **achieve a quality academic learning environment**. **The educational purpose of VCHS dress code is for students to practice** how to make personal attire decisions within the boundaries of a community's expectations. The dress code is evaluated every few years by surveying parents for input on where the VHS Dress Code would be set (last assessed in 2022). **Any changes to the VCHS Dress Code this year are to provide clarification to existing standards. Updated language is noted in green.**

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.

### Standards for All Students

- **All VCS-branded attire: VCS gear is all permitted except P.E./single-ply athletic shorts (students in PE, dance, and athletic performance course may wear the clothing permitted in the class syllabus during that class)**
- Tops: Sweatshirts, t-shirts, and collar shirts with general logos
- Bottoms: Jeans, slacks, or jogger-style pants (a jogger is a dressy structured pant with a cinched ankle). Approved shorts (and skirts or dresses for women) with lengths that are indisputably longer than the student's fingertips when arms are down/longer than mid-thigh. *See the Women's Dress Code for stretch pants policy.*
- Footwear: Footwear is to be worn at all times. Footwear should have adequate support for safety.
- Accessories: Backpacks, hats, jackets, and other accessories should be chosen using the same guidelines as the rest of the VCHS dress code
- Uniforms: 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 as game day or everyday wear.
- General: Traditional (widely adopted) gender-specific attire or gender-neutral attire is permitted (e.g. - women in a pant-suit is considered gender-neutral attire).
- General: Clothing must be modest while on our campus, attending classes online, and at school events held off campus. If a student cannot easily and

comfortably bend over/move freely while staying fully covered, then it is not appropriate for a high school campus or event.

## **Restricted Attire on Campus**

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- No excessive rips, shredded materials or large, gaping holes
- No sheer or see-through material (from armpit line to below mid-thigh)
- No sleepwear (including slippers, plain white undershirts, and pajama bottoms)
- No inappropriate slogans, pictures, etc.
  - No drug or alcohol references, no violence, or profanity
  - No wording or pictures promoting concepts not appropriate for students under 18 (Cookies, Playboy, etc.)
  - No fashion against social norms or is culturally insensitive
  - Nothing that is antagonistic of the beliefs of others or hostile in nature, including the promotion of social or political agendas (educational, non-divisive, and Christian content is permitted)
- Tops
  - No tank tops, camisoles, halter tops, strapless tops, or off-the-shoulder tops (even when women pair tops with a skirt)
  - No necklines that fall below the horizontal line between armpits
  - All parts of the stomach and back must be fully covered
- Bottoms
  - No sweatpants that are not VC Warrior Wear gear
  - No skirts and shorts shorter than the student's fingertips when arms are down (indisputably longer than mid-thigh)
  - No shorts made from sweatpants material or athletic material
  - No stretch pants (see one exception for women)
  - No holes above the knee
  - Belt line must be at the waistline. (No overly baggy/sagging pants)
  - No writing is allowed on the seat of clothing
- Piercing, tattoos, and makeup
  - No body piercing or facial piercings (see one exception for women)
  - Gauges, or spacers are not permitted
  - No visible tattoos (tattoos must be covered by normal clothing—no bandages)
  - No extreme use of make-up
- Hair and head coverings
  - No hairstyles with extreme cuts (i.e. mohawk)
  - No unnatural hair colors (ranges of red, along with other ranges of naturally-occurring hair colors, are permitted)
  - No head coverings in class, the office, or in chapel (including hoodies)

- Hats should not be worn backwards or sideways (even outside). Check with Dean of Students for short-term hair protection coverings.

### ***Dress Code Specific for Young Men***

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- 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 cannot grow hair out during the school year.
- The face is to be clean-shaven. If a student comes to school with facial hair, he **may be asked** to shave with what the school supplies. Shaving waivers for pseudofolliculitis barbae (PFB) can be granted to allow short facial hair. The parent must ask the Dean of Students for a waiver.
- Small stud earrings are permitted.

### ***Dress Code for Young Women***

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- Stretch pants are prohibited unless paired with an indisputably long, loose top
- **Single nose piercings with a small (2mm) stud or thin hoop are permitted**
- **Dresses and dressy tops can have tank top straps since you are "dressing up" for school (no halter tops)**

## **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 VCHS dress code and behavior expectations.

## **Semi-Formal Dance Dress Code**

Students are expected to dress up for semi-formal dances. Unless an exception is listed below, **the standard VCHS Dress Code applies to dances**, including non-VCHS guests.

**Being prohibited from entering a dance is highly stressful for both the student and anyone accompanying the student.** Please be certain that student attire falls within the published dress code. If a student cannot easily and comfortably bend over/move freely while staying fully covered, then it is not appropriate for a high school dance and the student will not be admitted.

For women: Dresses must fully cover from the top of the armpits to mid-thigh. The length of dresses or dress slits must stay indisputably no shorter than mid-thigh at all times. Dresses with stretch material are not advised because they tend not to remain at one length when moving. Dress Code exceptions for dances include:

- Strapless dresses are allowed if they follow all standards listed
- Backless dresses are allowed if they are above the waistline

For men: Suits or Tuxedos should be worn

- Collared button-down shirts or turtlenecks are required (Shirts should not be unbuttoned during the dance)
- Jeans or shorts are not allowed
- There are no shaving requirements at dances

## Dress Code Enforcement

VCS reserves the right to make the final decision in regard to dress.

Some policies are a "rule of thumb," such as length being indisputably 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.

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. All adults will work together to help students understand that dress code discipline is considered minor and that it 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 in order to attend class. Dress code violations will result in detentions. An attitude of defiance with repeated dress code violations may result in suspension or further escalated discipline.

Dress code is enforced on campus from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm each school day. Outside of school hours, students representing VCHS (e.g., attending a DECA conference, serving as an usher in the theater, attending a field trip, etc.) should adhere to the VCHS dress code or wear the attire prescribed by their activity (e.g., students participating in an athletic event wear team uniforms, students in a dance show wear assigned costumes, etc.). Dress code expectations are relaxed for students attending school events as spectators (rather than participants); however, students whose attire represents egregious violation of VCHS dress code standards may be asked to leave.