Appearance Code
2026-27

APPEARANCE CODE (GRADES JK-12)

The following expectations have been established to promote learning, ensure safety, support community and align with the mission of Charlotte Christian School. One practical way for students to demonstrate the core values (Love God, Seek Truth, Pursue Excellence, Show Kindness and Walk Humbly) is to dress in accordance with the school's appearance code.

Every student has value and worth as an image bearer, which is not determined by outward appearance or performance. In the context of the school community, there are times when personal preferences for style or attire are set aside, or sacrificed, for the sake of honoring one another, submitting to authority and living in accordance with the will of God. Meeting the expectations below, therefore, provides opportunities to exercise self-discipline, discernment, responsibility and ultimately worship.

There is no perfect appearance code, and these expectations have been selected to allow students flexibility in exercising personal choice while pursuing an atmosphere of professionalism in a college-prep environment. The guidelines must be reasonably attainable for students and allow for consistent accountability. When specific items are identified as permissible or not, both students and school personnel are empowered to understand and manage their responsibilities related to the appearance code accordingly. Items not permitted may be appropriate for another context.

The school reserves the right to interpret and/or update the appearance code as new styles or trends emerge and as additional clarification is needed. The final determination as to whether or not a student's appearance meets the defined expectations rests with the school administration. Students not complying with the appearance code may be directed to make corrections, even if another item must be provided from home. Additionally, disciplinary consequences may be assigned. These measures are not punitive, but rather consistent with an equitable and fair approach to maintaining consistent expectations for everyone.

LOWER SCHOOL GUIDELINES

Clothing

1. Clothing must be clean and in good repair. Clothing with holes (intended or not) and/or patches are not permitted.
2. Girls in grades JK-4 may wear dresses and skirts. All dresses, skirts or shorts must be long enough to reach the tip of the student's fingers when standing with their hands by their side. Butterfly shorts are not permitted. Please be sure shorts are always worn under dresses and skirts. Girls' shirts must have straps measuring two inches. No strapless tops, shirts with spaghetti straps, halter tops, crop tops, workout/yoga tank tops or tube tops may be worn.
3. Students are permitted to wear collared shirts, T-shirts or sweatshirts any day of the week that align with the school's guiding principles listed above.
4. Students in grades JK-4 may wear athletic shorts that are long enough to reach the tip of the student's fingers when standing with their hands by their side. Shorts must provide appropriate coverage as students walk, run and sit during the day.
5. Jeans, khaki-type slacks, dress pants and capris are permitted. Leggings, jeggings and yoga pants may be worn by girls if they provide appropriate coverage.
6. No lounge or pajama wear unless permitted for costume days.
7. On Field Day, students are allowed to wear bathing suits. Boys must wear a t-shirt with their swimsuit. Girls must either wear a one-piece or a tankini with no midriff exposed.
8. There may be special costume days when the appearance code is modified with teacher/administrator approval.

General

1. Shoes must be closed-toed and closed-heeled. Certain shoes (Ugg boots, Native slip-on shoes, jelly shoes, etc.) are allowed at school but are not safe for PE and should not be worn on PE days. Crocs or sandals are never permitted.
2. Hats, sweatshirt hoods, bandanas, headphones/earpods or sunglasses are not to be worn in the school buildings during the academic day.

3. The ONLY visible pierced jewelry allowed is earrings on girls. Boys may not wear earrings at any time, either to school or to any school event.
4. Temporary or permanent tattoos (doodling on arms, legs, etc.) must not be visible.
5. Hair must be of modest style, well-kept and neatly groomed. Extreme hairstyles, excessive hair length (below the shoulders for boys) and unnatural hair colors will not be permitted.

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL GUIDELINES

Pants, Shorts, Skirts and Dresses

- **Permitted**
    - Solid or patterned jeans, shorts or pants that are made of material other than spandex, jersey mesh or sweatpants
    - Skirts, dresses and shorts must reach mid-thigh or, at a minimum, reach the tip of the student's fingers when standing with their hands by their side (this length requirement applies to dress slits). Coverage must be maintained while walking or sitting.

- **Not Permitted**
    - Shorts, pants and skirts made of spandex, jersey mesh or sweatpant material
    - Tennis skirts, running shorts, track pants, leggings and yoga pants
    - Pajama pants, onesies, fleece and flannel pants
    - Form-fitting styles such as bodycon dresses
    - Pants, shorts, skirts or dresses that reveal any undergarments

Tops

- **Permitted**
    - Solid or patterned tops
        - Shirts must fully cover the torso, front and back, while walking, sitting, and standing.
    - Charlotte Christian School, Windy Gap and Carolina Point logos and graphics
    - Messaging that features Scripture or Christ-centered language, provided they are not promotional in nature and align with the school's guiding principles
    - Official college/university names, mascots and logos, provided they align with the school's guiding principles
    - Brand logos or graphics (e.g., Nike, Polo, Vineyard Vines) smaller than a standard credit card (3.5 in x 2 in)
        - All logos and graphics must align with the school's guiding principles.
    - Tops must feature modest necklines such as crewneck, notched, buttoned, hooded or collared designs.

- **Not Permitted**
    - Brand logos or graphics larger than a standard credit card (3.5 in x 2 in)
    - Graphics or logos associated with events, individuals or organizations outside of Charlotte Christian School
    - Any necklines other than those defined above (ex. deep scoop neck, deep-V neck, sweetheart, off the shoulder or wide neck styles)
    - Tops that reveal any part of the back, front or sides between the neckline and the waist (ex. strapless, straps, wide neck styles, one-shoulder, racerback, halter styles, oversized armholes, backless, low back or cropped)
    - Tops made of sheer or crocheted fabric without an approved top underneath
    - Tops that have been cut, tied or twisted
    - Tops that reveal any undergarments

Note: Tops that are covered by a jacket, hoodie, sweater, sweatshirt, cardigan or another top must also meet appearance code guidelines if the outerwear is removed.

General

- **Permitted**
    - Clothing must be clean and in good repair.

- Facial hair must be neatly groomed.
- Earrings are permitted for girls only.
- Students must wear permitted footwear at all times.
- Casual footwear, including sneakers and closed-toe shoes are acceptable for the academic day. For safety reasons, backless styles or shoes without a heel strap are not permitted during Life Fitness or organized physical activities where athletic sneakers must be worn.

- **Not Permitted**
  - Clothing with holes or cutouts
  - Hairstyles or colors that cause undue attention
  - Hats, hoods, bandanas, headphones/earpods and sunglasses worn in school buildings during the academic day are not permitted. Faculty may give permission for students to use earpods for academic purposes.
  - Piercings — except earrings for girls. Students arriving with a visible piercing may be required to remove jewelry, no matter how recent the piercing occurred.
  - Drawings on the skin or visible tattoos
  - Athletic slides, house slippers or flip-flops

Special Occasion Guidelines

There are times when students will be asked to dress up for events such as performances, promotions, special assemblies or presentations.

- Students may wear dress pants or nice jeans (no rips or holes; no shorts).
- Female students may wear dresses and skirts that reach the tip of their fingers when standing with their hands by their side.
- All necklines must be above the top of the underarms.
- Only dresses that fully cover the front, sides and back are permitted.
- Shoulder straps must be at least two inches wide; one-shoulder, halter and strapless dresses are not permitted.
- Male students may wear a collared shirt or a shirt and tie. Shirts must be tucked in.
- Shoes are expected to be in good repair and allow students to walk comfortably and safely throughout the event. Sandals and dress shoes are permitted.
- Guidelines and expectations for upper school dances can be located in the upper school office.

Spirit Day Attire

Charlotte Christian School has a long-standing tradition of celebrating special events such as annual spiritual retreats, pink-out day and themed dress up days during homecoming week. During such times, the following exceptions to the appearance code may be allowed.

- Sweatpants and athletic joggers are permitted.
- Shirts with professional logos are permitted.
- Themed dress-up day shirts must cover the back, front and sides completely from the neckline to the waist and align with the school's guiding principles.
- Pajamas are not permitted unless communicated by the school administration.

Athletic/Life Fitness Attire

- Life Fitness attire may not be worn outside of a student's scheduled Life Fitness class.
- Leggings, sweatpants, athletic joggers and track pants are permitted in Life Fitness classes only.
- All shorts must have a minimum inseam of at least four inches.
- T-shirts are required and must fully cover the back, front and sides at all times.
- Solid or patterned tops with crew necks are permitted.
- Graphics and logos other than Charlotte Christian School or college names are not permitted.
- Undergarments may not be visible at any time.
- Students are expected to wear shirts at all times, on and off campus, during practices, contests and events. Notable exceptions are water activities for athletics (see Swimwear below).

Swimwear

- Shirts are expected to be worn at all times, except in designated swimming areas.

- Male swim trunks must have a five-inch minimum inseam.
- Female swimsuits are limited to modest one-piece or tankini styles, which fully cover the midriff, chest and bottom.

Examples of appearance code attire can be found here.

Revised as of 6.2.26