VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS™
HIGH SCHOOL
"Do it heartily as to the Lord." Col. 3:23

VCHS DRESS CODE 2026-27

Note: This Dress Code Draft is dated 6.30.2026. VCHS reserves the right to make edits and modifications to this document. If updates other than clarification are made, VCHS will notify students and parents. Updates from the previous year are noted in gree

VCHS Dress Code

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 the 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 VCHS Dress Code would be set (last assessed in 2022).

We also recognize that no policy can address every situation, and that enforcement must be practical, consistent, and approached with empathy. When applying or adjusting dress code expectations, we take into account:

- the day-to-day realities of classroom and campus life,
- student and parent perspectives on what is considered appropriate in a structured learning environment,
- evolving trends in student attire, and
- the need for policies that are reasonably enforceable by staff across a large campus.

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.

General Dress Code Standards for All Students

- VCS-branded attire: VCS gear is permitted when it meets the dress code expectations. For instance,
    - P.E./single-ply athletic shorts should only be worn by students in their PE, dance, or athletic performance course.
    - Attire from an athlete's spirit pack should only be worn to school when dictated by their coach on game day to promote school awareness and build team spirit.
    - 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.
    - Attire outside the VCHS dress code, such as pajamas, even with VCS branding, is not permitted.
- Tops: Sweatshirts, t-shirts, and collar shirts with general logos
- Bottoms: Jeans, slacks, or sweatpants (in good condition). Approved shorts (and skirts or dresses for women) that are indisputably longer than the student's fingertips when arms are down/longer than mid-thigh. **Students with shorts that are shorter than mid-thigh may be immediately sent home on the first offense and will miss class time.** *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. Students may be required to wear specific footwear on a course-by-course basis (e.g., closed-toed shoes for science labs, sneakers for PE, etc.).
- Accessories: Backpacks, hats, jackets, and other accessories should be chosen using the same guidelines as the rest of the VCHS dress code.
- 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. Undergarments should be covered by clothing at all times.

Restricted Attire on Campus

- 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 **no pajama bottoms**); Flannel pajama bottoms or pants made of thin, pajama-like material are not permitted.
- No sweatpants that have large lettering, large logos, or printed graphics (with the exception of VCS logos/branding).
- 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 that is culturally insensitive
    - Nothing that is antagonistic to 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 skirts or shorts shorter than the student's fingertips when arms are down (indisputably longer than mid-thigh)
    - No shorts made from athletic material
    - No shorts without a hem or with a frayed/cut-off hem
    - 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).
    - Sweatpants may not be sagged, rolled at the waistband, or worn in a manner that reveals undergarments or midsection. Students may lose their privilege of wearing sweatpants if this occurs.
    - 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 Men

- **Guidelines for Hair:** 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. Growing hair out during the year is not permitted if it cannot be consistently worn in a bun.
- **Guidelines for Facial Hair:** 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.
- **Guidelines for Piercings:** Small stud earrings are permitted.

Dress Code for Women

- **Guidelines for Yoga/Stretch Pants:** Stretch pants are prohibited unless paired with an indisputably long, loose top.
- **Guidelines for Piercings:** Single nose piercings with a small (2mm) stud or thin hoop are permitted.
- **Guidelines for Dresses:** Dresses can have tank top straps since you are "dressing up" for school (no halter tops) as long as the dress indisputably covers from armpit to fingertip length. Note that dresses with tank top straps are prohibited on picture day.

Public Representation

When students serve in a leadership capacity—whether on campus or off—they represent not only themselves but also the values and culture of VCHS. In recognition of this, the **Public Representation** dress standard outlines expectations for attire that conveys professionalism, maturity, and respect for the role and setting.

This standard applies to a wide range of school-related leadership and public-facing opportunities, including but not limited to:

- Leading or speaking at a rally
- Participating in Warrior Worship
- Serving as a chapel reader or host
- Representing VCHS at school events or public functions
- Leading campus tours or shadow days

- Performing in formal showcases or ceremonies
- Serving as a student ambassador or panelist

In these settings, students are expected to wear attire that is more formal than everyday classroom dress—**clothing that communicates preparedness, respect for the audience, and awareness of the setting**. While the daily dress code allows for a range of casual options, including athletic wear, these items (e.g., sweatpants, joggers, leggings) are **not appropriate when serving in a representative role**.

VCHS views these opportunities as meaningful leadership experiences that prepare students for future academic, professional, and ministry environments. Attire should support that purpose by reflecting a standard of excellence and care. Specific attire guidelines may be communicated in advance of particular events.

School ID Photo Dress Code

Students should follow the school dress code for picture ID day. Note that for picture IDs, students may not wear hats, hoods, tank tops, or sunglasses.

Swim Dress Code

At times, VCHS holds swimming events. **Extra caution and an ability to swim are required to participate in swim events.**

Swim Dress Code Standards for All Students

- A swimsuit is required
- Swimsuit outside of the pool deck or appropriate water event venue is not allowed

Dress Code for Young Men

- Swim trunks required
- No swim briefs allowed

Dress Code for Young Women

- Modest cut swimsuit
- Either a one-piece swimsuit or a t-shirt/tank-top over a two-piece swimsuit

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 Retreats and Spirit Weeks

VCHS intentionally relaxes the dress code several weeks each year: Homecoming Spirit Week, Christmas Spirit Week, and Warrior Warz Spirit Week. During the spirit weeks, students can wear shorts (see important note below), sweatpants, pajama bottoms, and tank tops *if* 1) the attire is aligned with the school spirit theme, 2) covers the student from armpit to below fingertip, and 3) does not have any prohibited slogans.

Important Note for Shorts: Shorts must have a minimum 4-inch inseam, and no part of the hem may be shorter than the length of the inseam. Designs with slits, high-low cuts, curved hems, or frayed edges that create areas shorter than the length of the shorts at the inseam are not permitted, even if the inseam itself meets the 4-inch minimum. The non-retreat/spirit week dress code requires that shorts have a hem no shorter than a student's fingertips/length that indisputably reaches mid-thigh.

Dress Code for Senior Events

- Seniors must use the VCHS-approved attire for the school yearbook published photo. Men are photographed in tuxedo tops or graduation robe, while women use drapes, or graduation robe.
- Seniors must wear their graduation robe formally zipped up for both Baccalaureate and Graduation.

Formal Dance Dress Code

Students are expected to dress up for 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.

Dress Code for Young 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 for Young Women

Dresses must fully cover from the top of the armpits to the top of the knee. The length of dresses or dress slits must stay indisputably within these rules 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

Dress Code Enforcement

VCS reserves the right to make the final decision in regard to student dress. VCHS may immediately pull a student from class and not allow attendance until the student is within the dress code.

Some dress code policies are a general “rule of thumb,” such as hemlines being indisputably longer than fingertip length. We recognize that different body types may affect how clothing fits and appears, and VCHS is committed to equitable enforcement. If you have a concern about how the dress code applies to you or your student, please contact an administrator so we can work with you directly.

Staff have been trained on both the dress code and our Biblical Unity principles. Their responsible professional judgment will be respected and supported by both the administration and parents. All adults will work together to help students understand that dress code discipline is considered **minor** and will be treated as such by both staff and parents.

Enforcement Process

- A **verbal warning or reminder** may be given before formal discipline, depending on the nature of the violation.
- **Clear dress code violations** (e.g., tank tops, shorts that do not meet length requirements, pajama bottoms, facial hair, etc.) may require the student to change into appropriate attire before attending class.
    - If alternative clothing is available on campus, the student will place their original clothing in a labeled Ziploc bag, which will be stored in the front office for pickup after school.
- **Dress code violations** will result in **detentions**, unless otherwise noted.
- **Repeated violations** and/or an **attitude of defiance** may result in **suspension** or further escalated discipline.

Timing and Applicability

Dress code is enforced on campus **from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm** each school day. Students representing VCHS outside of school hours (e.g., at a DECA conference, while ushering for a performance, attending a field trip, etc.) are expected to follow the VCHS dress code or the attire required for their activity (e.g., team uniforms, performance costumes).

Dress code expectations are relaxed for student spectators at school events. However, students whose attire represents an egregious violation of VCHS dress code standards may be asked to leave the event.