

Newman Catholic Schools-Systemwide K-12 Student Dress Code

This dress code combines common expectations from the Elementary and Middle/High School dress codes into a single, consistent policy while preserving age-appropriate flexibility.

Purpose

The dress code promotes modesty, respect, safety, responsibility, and a learning environment reflective of Catholic values. Students and families are responsible for complying. The Administration retains final discretion regarding the interpretation of the dress code.

Parent Request

Parents are also asked to adhere to a modest and appropriate dress code while participating in school activities and events.

General Expectations

- Clothing must be neat, clean, properly fitted, and free of visible rips, frays, holes, or unhemmed edges.
- Undergarments must not be visible.
- No see-through fabrics unless worn over appropriate clothing.
- Clothing, accessories, or graphics may not be violent, offensive, intimidating, or contrary to Catholic values.
- Outerwear, blankets, hats, and sunglasses are not worn indoors unless approved for medical or school purposes.

Logos, Colors, and Patterns

- Solid colors, stripes, plaids, florals, geometric patterns, and similar prints are permitted.
- School spirit wear, college apparel, and tasteful brand logos are acceptable.
- No slogans or graphics that are distracting, offensive, or promote inappropriate messages.

Pants and Leggings

- Khaki, dress-style, or athletic-style dress pants are encouraged.
- No blue jeans except on approved Spirit Days.
- Colored denim is permitted if neat, free of distressing, and properly fitting.
- Leggings/yoga pants may be worn only when the top extends to mid-thigh.
- No pajama pants, sweatpants, athletic warm-ups, spandex, or similar loungewear.

Shorts, Skirts, Skorts, and Dresses

- Must be modest and no shorter than approximately 3 inches above the knee, **Secondary only**, shorts must be blue, black, or khaki tones, and belt loops are required (Skorts are acceptable)
- Leggings, shorts, or tights should be worn under skirts and dresses.
- No athletic or bike shorts except for Physical Education.
- **Elementary**: shorts can be worn during warmer-weather months with administrative approval. **Secondary**: high school may wear modest shorts year-round; middle school may wear modest shorts during designated warm-weather months, unless the administration approves otherwise.

Shirts and Sweatshirts

- Shirts must cover the torso with modest necklines.
- No midriff, spaghetti straps, off-the-shoulder tops, or cut-off sleeves.
- Sleeveless tops are permitted if the shoulders and chest are appropriately covered.
- Hooded sweatshirts are permitted, but hoods remain down indoors, and hoodies are not worn for Mass.

Footwear

- Securely fastened shoes are required for safety.
- Sandals are permitted, no flip-flops
- No roller shoes, athletic slides, Crocs, steel-toed boots, or unsafe footwear.
- Athletic shoes and socks are required for Physical Education.

Hair, Makeup, and Accessories

- Hair, including facial hair, should be clean, neatly groomed, and natural in appearance; hair cannot be dyed unnatural colors.
- No visible tattoos.
- Ear piercings are permitted; other visible facial piercings are not.
- Accessories should not distract from learning.

Mass and Special Events

- Students dress to a higher standard.
- No shorts, athletic wear, hoodies, sweatshirts, or blue jeans unless specifically approved.
- No slogans or graphics during Mass

Spirit Days

- Blue jeans may be worn only with approved Newman Catholic Spirit Wear; spirit wear must be visible.
- Each school may designate different dress-up days throughout the school year to offer students various opportunities. The administrator's discretion is applied.
- All other dress code expectations remain in effect.

Enforcement

All student dress is subject to administrative approval, and as such, students may be asked to change clothing. If a student does not have alternatives or a change of clothing, parents may be contacted to bring appropriate attire. Repeated violations may result in disciplinary consequences.

Mission: Newman Catholic Schools fosters disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service, and academics.