



Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

Heritage Christian Academy is dedicated to training young men and women to become self-disciplined members of the body of Christ. Each student and staff member shares the responsibility of developing and exhibiting a school spirit that honors our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dress Code Basics for Preschool, Elementary, Middle & High School

Neatness, modesty, and respect guide the dress code policy. Working toward these objectives through a dress code rather than a uniform system intentionally leaves students a measure of choice and individuality. While *HCA* policy attempts to be very clear, individual choice may also leave some grey areas in decision making. As a general rule, an outfit a parent or student questions at home is generally best left at home. A student may be asked to remove or cover an item of clothing that is deemed inappropriate by a teacher or administrator. The final decision regarding individual dress code questions will be made at the discretion of school administration. In keeping with the principles of Love and Logic, students will be part of the solution when a dress code issue arises.

Pants/Shorts

- Neat shorts may be worn by students throughout the school year.
- Acceptable shorts for classroom attire must meet neatness and modesty standards.
- Hems should be modest in length approximately 2" from the top of the kneecap.
- Athletic shorts must be reserved for PE/HPW classes.

Pants

- Neat blue jeans, denim fabrics in alternate colors, khakis, corduroys, and dress pants are great examples of everyday options. Frayed, torn, or ripped pants are outside the boundaries for "neat." Save jeans with tears, rips, or frays for home.
- Athletic pants and sweatpants are reserved for home and athletic wear.
- Pants must fit so that undergarments are not exposed. Careful selection of pants that are appropriately modest when seated, as well as when standing, is important. There must be no skin exposed on the lower back when seated.
- Elementary students (grades 1-5) must cover tight fitting pants, leggings, yoga pants, tights, or any spandex material with a top that **covers** the bottom.
- Middle School and High School students are not permitted to wear leggings, yoga pants, tights, or any spandex material. Girls may wear leggings or tights under a dress or skirt which is modest in length.

Shirts

- *Heritage* spiritwear (must display *Heritage* name or logo to qualify) may be chosen for daily wear. Athletes should follow coaches' instructions for game day attire. Non-*HCA* teams (example: your traveling team) are not sanctioned for daily wear.
- Tasteful college logos are appropriate for daily wear. Your support of the *HCA* community and

the pursuit of higher education are encouraged!

- *HCA* spiritwear, Christian bands, Christian camps, and Christian sayings are acceptable attire.
- Young men are asked to refrain from wearing tanks during the school day.
- Shirt length and coverage should insure that no matter what posture is assumed, skin or undergarments are not exposed. Sleeveless shirts and necklines should promote modesty, as an example, young women should aim for 2 inch width on the straps of tops.
- Hoods must be worn down at all times.
- A student may be requested to cover or replace an item of clothing that is deemed inappropriate by a teacher or administrator.

Preschool and Elementary Shirts

- Screen print designs with images or words are not permitted for preschool and elementary students.
- Logo shirts which advertise brand names (examples include NIKE swoosh, Under Armor, etc.) are not acceptable attire unless brand names/logos are 3 inches or smaller.
- Shirts that include geometric, patterns, stripes, and floral designs that do not reflect images are welcome.

Middle & High School Shirts

As students grow and mature in their decision-making process, it is our desire to walk alongside them in their choices about appropriate and modest dress. Middle and High School students will be allowed to wear shirts with logos or messages that are respectful to one another and honor Christ.

Dresses and Skirts

Hems should be modest in length. Girls should aim for a skirt or dress length no higher than 2" above the top of the kneecap. Revealing slits should be avoided.

- Preschool and elementary girls are encouraged to wear shorts under skirts and dresses on physical education days.

Hair and Accessories

- Jewelry should be modest and in good taste. Pierced jewelry for females should be limited to ears only for school and school events. Males with piercings should remove jewelry for school and school events.
- Natural hair colors are acceptable, including blonding for both men and women. Extreme styles or coloring may require adjustment. Hair paint, if sanctioned is for middle and High School students during Homecoming week and must be applied at home.
- Hair may be styled to the student's preference as long as hair is clean, neat, and doesn't impede vision.

Hats, Hoods, and Sunglasses

- Hats (stocking hats, baseball style caps, etc.), hoods, and sunglasses should be removed upon entering the school building.

Fragrances and Cosmetics

- Please be considerate of those who are affected by strong smells and suffer from fragrance induced allergies by refraining from wearing bold fragrances at school.
- Cosmetics may be used sparingly.

Athletic Attire

HCA athletic teams may wear team uniforms and warm up jerseys as designated by team coaches. On game days, athletes will focus on coordinating their jerseys and/or warm up tops (dress code standards apply from the waist down). Non-*HCA* teams (example: traveling teams) are not sanctioned for daily wear.

Just For Fun Days

Administration will provide students with dress-down days on occasion, designated spirit days, or special occasion theme days. Students will receive notice via announcements and the *HCA* website. Dress code applies for the rest of a student's attire unless specifically noted.

Field Trips and Special Occasions

Regular *HCA* dress code attire applies during all field trips unless a specific exception is made and announced prior to the field trip. Students participating in special programs will be notified if specific attire is required. Examples include musical concerts or contests, Recognition Ceremony, High School Formal, Graduation, etc.

School pictures for the yearbook and ID cards will be taken at *Hello Academy Night*. Please adhere to dress code guidelines.

HPW Dress Code Preschool- Grade 5

- Socks and athletic shoes must be worn. Students are required to have a "gym only" pair of shoes.
- In the fall and spring Physical Education instruction often occurs outside. Please do not send your child to school with flip flops on HPW days.
- Girls are encouraged to wear shorts under skirts and dresses on Physical Education days.

HPW Dress Code 6-12

- Pants/Shorts: Athletic shorts must be a modest length, mid-thigh or longer. Jean shorts, boxers, cut-offs, cargo shorts and short shorts are not appropriate for HPW classes. Windpants or sweatpants are appropriate.
- Tops: Long-sleeved shirts, sweatshirts or t-shirts are appropriate. T-shirts must be athletic, loose fitting and a length that no matter what the activity, skin is not exposed on the abdomen or back. Sleeveless or tank tops are not appropriate for HPW. *HCA* athletic jerseys and practice jerseys are reserved for team wear only.
- Shoes: Socks and athletic shoes must be worn. No hard-soled shoes are permitted. Students are encouraged to have a "gym only" pair of shoes to protect the gym floor.
- Jewelry: As a precaution against injury, no unnecessary jewelry should be worn in class.

Students must be in full, appropriate HPW dress code to participate in class.

Respecting Dress Code for Students

Students, who are not in compliance with dress code guidelines, will be given the opportunity to change and asked to make a different choice in the future. In the case of repeated offences, a call will be made to parents and may result in administrative action as needed. Should an individual student have dress code questions, the *Academy* welcomes their respectful self advocacy.