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## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

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### Dress Code for Students in Grades 9 through 12

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**At Covenant Christian Academy, we strive to set standards that promote excellence in academics, conduct and appearance.** Our dress code is based on the principles of modesty, neatness, and appropriateness. We believe that physical appearance and self-image are closely related, and a dress code encourages good behavior. Student's appearance influences the students' attitude toward themselves, others, their school, and their responsibilities.

### **Introduction and General Information**

Students are required to be in proper attire during school hours, unless other attire has been approved. Students are required to arrive at school and to leave school in proper attire unless prior permission was obtained from the principal.

**Standard Dress** is required on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

**Professional Dress** is required on Wednesdays for Chapel, and will be required from time to time for other special school events.

**Spirit Attire** may be worn on Fridays.

### **Standard Dress: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday**

#### **Girls**

- Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be of modest length at all times. Skirts must be no more than 4" above the knee when standing. Shorts must be no more than 5" above the knee when standing.
- Pants, jeans or shorts are to be clean and neat, trimmed and without tears or holes.
- Tops must be modest. Tops must cover undergarments completely (front and back), must not be too tight, must cover the midriff, and the neckline must not display cleavage. Tank and racerback tank tops, spaghetti straps, and strapless tops are not permitted. Shoulder straps must be at least 2" wide.
- Must wear white or flesh colored undergarments under white, or light colored, blouses.
- Leggings may only be worn under a dress, shorts or skirt.

#### **Boys**

- A collared shirt, short or long sleeve. (A sweater with a stand up mock collar is acceptable)
- Pants, jeans or shorts are to be worn pulled up to the waist.
- Facial hair is to be well-trimmed and neat.

### **Additional General Guidelines for Standard Dress**

**Pants, jeans or shorts** are to be clean and neat, trimmed and without tears or holes.

**Official CCA Spirit-wear** (sweatshirts, outerwear, etc.) may be worn over a Standard Dress Shirt.

**Non CCA jackets** are not to be worn during the academic day.

**Dress sweaters and sport coats** without a CCA logo may be worn over a Standard Dress shirt.

**Students may not wear T-shirts with logos that are visible underneath Dress Code shirts.**

**Clothing should not contain visible large branding or art.** A small logo is permitted.

**Gym shorts or sweatpants** are not considered part of the Standard Uniform.

**Shoes:** While there is no uniform footwear, students should wear comfortable dress shoes, casual shoes or sneakers. Students may not wear open-toed sandals, beach sandals (flip flops), Crocs, work boots, moccasins, bedroom slippers or impractical styles.

**Hats and bandanas** may not be worn inside the school building.

**Hair** should not be unnaturally colored, including streaks of color or unnaturally colored highlights.

**Bathing Suits:** At a CCA sponsored event where swimsuits are allowed, girls are required to wear modest one-piece bathing suits or tankini's and boys may not wear "Speedo style" bathing suits.

**Body Embellishments:** Gauges, and facial piercings (other than traditional ear piercings) are prohibited.

**Any clothing items, backpacks, notebooks or related items with statements, signs, or symbols that are inappropriate or offensive will not be permitted.**

### **Professional Attire: Chapel Wednesday and As Requested**

There are times in the life of a school when more professional attire will be expected. Events such as school presentations, serving as a representative of CCA at an admissions or outside event, where a higher level of dress is appropriate. In such cases, a student may be asked to meet the Professional Attire guidelines listed below.

**Girls** may wear a dress, or a skirt or dress slacks, with a blouse and/or sweater.

- Skirts and dresses should be modest. The length must be no more than 4" above the knee.
- Dresses or blouses with shoulder straps less than 2" wide cannot be worn without a jacket or over blouse.

**Boys** should wear dress pants or slacks, a shirt with a collar, and a tie or bow tie.

- Dress Jackets/Blazers for boys are optional, but at times may be required.
- Shirts must remain tucked in all day.
- An appropriate dress belt should be worn.

**For both Boys and Girls:** Jean style pants (defined as denim, stretch denim, back pockets sewn on the exterior of the pant, or rivets visible), joggers, cargo pants and shorts do not meet the expectation of "dress pants or slacks" for professional attire.

**Boys and Girls** should wear appropriate leather dress shoes, not flip flops, sneakers, or other casual footwear.

**Spirit Wear** may NOT be worn over Professional Attire on Chapel days.

### **Spirit Attire (Optional): Friday**

Students in grades 9 through 12 may participate in Spirit Day Fridays by wearing any official CCA Spirit wear. Students may wear pants, jeans or shorts that are clean and neat, without tears or holes. Pants may not be unnaturally tight-fitting. Students may wear T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, etc. from a CCA sports team, club, musical group, theatre production, etc. No leisure, lounge, or exercise clothing (warm-ups, wind suits, etc.) are to be worn. No house slippers or rubber beach sandals are to be worn. Any CCA jacket or sweatshirt may be worn as outerwear, but the shirt underneath must meet the shirt requirements of Spirit Fridays. Students that do not wish to participate in Spirit Attire on Fridays should default to the Standard Dress code.

### **Prom Attire - Grade 9 - 12**

High school banquets are important events that give students the opportunity to practice social graces and proper behavior in a formal setting. Since these events are school sponsored and can be attended by students other than CCA students, it is especially important that our students exhibit the same modest choices that are expected at school.

- Girls who attend a CCA Prom are expected to wear dresses that are modest. Dresses must not show cleavage, midriff, or have slits in the hem higher than 4" above the knee.
- Dresses must be no more than 4" above the knee if wearing a short dress.
- Boys attending prom are expected to wear formal attire. Suits or tuxedos are appropriate.

**Note:** If there is a question as to the appropriateness of the dress, bring the dress in or email a picture to show your class sponsor. Don't risk being asked to leave the prom. These guidelines apply also to the dates of CCA students.

*The guideline for all types of dress, during all school events, is that it must be **modest** and not draw undue attention to any one part of the body. Students will be expected to be in proper attire as outlined in the standards of dress. Students not in proper attire will be removed from classes or the school event until such time as they are able to comply with the standards of dress as outlined.*

### ***Note to Parents***

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We want to prevent the dress code from becoming a major issue at Covenant Christian Academy. Even though we readily acknowledge that much of the dress code is mere institutional preference, it is not optional. Students are expected to comply with the code and parents are expected to monitor compliance before their children leave home. We are not here to be "clothes police." It is inappropriate that complying students, teachers, or principals be distracted from the educational process, due to someone failing in his or her commitment to follow the code. Thank you for your help and cooperation.