



# WESTOVER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## SECONDARY DRESS STANDARD 2023-2024

### (Grades 6-12)

There are two primary reasons for a dress standard. The first is to promote modesty, which the Bible encourages (1 Tim. 2:9). The second is to create a school atmosphere that enhances and supports our Expected Student Outcomes. While we realize that the Bible does not specifically tell us how we should dress or how our hair should be cut, it does give us some principles to follow. In light of the principles of modesty, neatness and appropriateness, we have set an institutional standard for WCA. A well-groomed student should come to the Academy with an attitude that prepares them for neat, conscientious work. Their attire should convey respect for themselves, their fellow students, and their teachers. **Attire should be gender appropriate.**

The cooperation of the students, their parents, and the faculty in accepting and maintaining this standard will greatly enhance the school's effectiveness in serving its stated purpose as a Christian school. The dress standard is not solely the responsibility of the school, but also of the parents. **Parents are expected to cooperate with the school in seeing that their students meet the dress standard prior to arriving at school on a daily basis.** Tolerance for dress standard infractions will be limited and repeated offenses may indicate an issue of direct disobedience. Such students will be subject to disciplinary action ranging from detention to expulsion.

The school faculty reserves the right to determine the acceptability of clothing and hairstyles and expects support from the parents to abide by the WCA Parent Commitment. Generally speaking, extreme styles of dress and grooming are not permitted as they detract from the classroom environment. We are aware of the fact that any dress standard cannot cover all situations. If parents have questions, please feel free to call the office for additional clarification.

**The requirement of "modest" items of clothing is mentioned several times. "Modest" is defined as (1) sufficiently loose so as to not appear form fitting to the body, (2) thick enough that undergarments are not visible through the material and (3) adequate coverage.**

#### **MIDDLE AND HIGH GIRLS (GRADES 6-12)**

##### **ACCEPTABLE**

Modest pants, jeans, cropped pants, or shorts (knee length or longer)

Modest skirts and dresses

Modest shirts and tops (modesty must prevail over a sensuous look)

Leggings under dress of proper length (2 to 3 inches above the knee)

Shoes or sandals

Appropriate jewelry and natural make up

Natural hair color

##### **NOT ACCEPTABLE**

No rolled shorts  
Pants/shorts with holes  
Athletic joggers  
Ragged or worn out pants/shorts  
Sweatpants, windsuits, or pants/shorts made of jersey/knit fabric

Skirts and dresses shorter than the top of the knee when standing  
Slits higher than 2 inches above knee

Inappropriate messages or pictures  
Tops that show the chest, midriff, cleavage or have an open back

Full length coats

Undergarments that can be seen in any way

Leggings under dress or top shorter than 2 to 3 inches above the knee  
(No jeggings)

\*Pierced jewelry other than earrings, (no gauges in ears are allowed)  
\*\*visible tattoos, make up or jewelry that is distracting

Unnatural hair colors/shades (ex. purples, greens, pinks, etc.)

Pierced jewelry other than earrings

Hats, hoods and sunglasses inside the school building

\*For female students 18 years or older a single small nose stud on the side of the nose (no other facial piercing) is acceptable. Nose septum jewelry is not allowed.

\*\*For female students 18 years or older visible tattoos (not on the face) are acceptable if they are deemed appropriate by school administration.

NOTE: Students younger than 18 years old should cover a visible tattoo.

## **MIDDLE AND HIGH BOYS (GRADES 6-12)**

### **ACCEPTABLE**

Pants/jeans/shorts  
(knee length or longer)

Tucked in or  
untucked shirts

Shoes or sandals

Well-groomed hair  
of natural color

Clean shaven face or neatly  
trimmed facial hair /beard

### **NOT ACCEPTABLE**

Form-fitting or oversized pants/shorts  
No rolled shorts  
Sweatpants, windsuits, or pants/ shorts made of jersey/knit fabric  
Athletic joggers  
Pants/shorts with holes  
Ragged, sloppy, or worn out pants

Long untucked shirts  
Shirts with inappropriate messages or pictures

Full length coats

Hair touching the top of T-shirt, or  
bottom of ear (even if behind the ears), exceeds past the eyebrows

Unnatural hair colors/shades (ex: purples, greens, pinks, etc.)

Hair accessories

Untrimmed beard

Hats, hoods, headwear, and sunglasses inside the school building  
\*\*Visible tattoos, pierced jewelry

\*\*For male students 18 years or older visible tattoos (not on the face) are allowed if they are deemed appropriate by school administration.

NOTE: Students younger than 18 should cover a visible tattoo.

## **HANDLING OF DRESS STANDARD INFRACTIONS**

### ***GRADES 4-5***

The teacher observes the students and decides the best course of action for infractions (options: verbal warning, parental notification, parents bring change of clothes.) Chronic issues are referred to the Director of Elementary Education.

### ***GRADES 6-12***

- Hair Infractions: After School Detention. No verbal warning will be given.
- First Infraction: Verbal Warning and copy of dress standard violation.
- Second Infraction: Written Warning and copy of dress standard violation
- Third Infraction: After School Detention
- Fourth Infraction: After School Detention
- Fifth Infraction: One Day of Suspension
- Sixth Infraction: Further disciplinary action as deemed necessary.

The faculty/staff will issue written warnings, detentions and suspensions to the student and contact the parent(s) via email through FACTS