

The High School of St. Thomas More

Homecoming/Prom/Dance Expectations

Our goal is to insure a safe and healthy environment that honors the values & mission of The High School of St. Thomas More. These policies emerge from our shared mission in promoting Catholic values that recognize the dignity and self-worth of all people made in the image and likeness of God. Dress for formal events should serve as a means to emphasize the beauty and dignity of the whole person as male and female “of a virtuous and Christ-centered person at all times, including dances and social activities.” Within this setting, dances are viewed as an opportunity for students to socialize in a supervised and safe environment. Student behavior and manner of dress should reflect this guiding principle.

“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.”

1 Peter 3:3-4

FOR LADIES: Dress/outfit should reflect *the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit* and be appropriate for the High School of St. Thomas More environment. Dress, skirt, blouse/top or pants outfit should be formal in nature. The dress/outfit **must** meet the following requirements:

Appropriate **LENGTH:** skirt, dress, and the slit of skirt or dress may be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee in front and back.

Appropriate **FIT:** the whole dress may not be so tight as to show all contours of the body. Also, the dress should not rise (past the length requirements) up while dancing.

Appropriate **CUT:** top may be strapless or spaghetti straps, but not low cut so as to expose any possible cleavage. Dresses should not have cutout areas on the sides or front, but small cutouts are permissible on the back, as long as the area exposed remains 2 inches above the waistline and does not spread to the sides. Dress may not be see-through and may not expose any midriff or cleavage. (In order to be considered a cutout the hole must be bigger than 1 inch.)

Students who have any questions about dress code or who want to have an outfit approved prior to an event please contact the school.

FOR GENTLEMAN: Men too, should dress in a dignified manner. “ *put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*” *Romans 13:14*

Dress pants (no jeans, kilts or sweats) - may not be so tight as to show all contours of

the body. Long sleeve, button down, collared shirt with tie or bow tie; formal jackets for prom; and belt and dress shoes. (no sandals or crocs) - men's shirts must remain buttoned and dress pants or khakis worn.

Any clothing that violates the policy will NOT be allowed into the event or sent home if dress is provocative or immodest until the attire is in-line with these guidelines.

“When Christian decency is present, then one’s dress is worthy adornment of the person with whose beauty it blends as in a single triumph of admirable dignity.”
Pope Pius XII

Dance Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to behave appropriately on and off the dance floor. Therefore, sexually explicit dancing is not allowed. These behaviors include expressing sexual innuendos, inappropriate touching and exposure, stimulating sexual activities, or participating in public displays of affection.

If a student behaves or dances inappropriately, he or she will be warned one time. Any further inappropriate actions will result in dismissal from the activity. We will notify parents before the student leaves the premises.

These expectations are to help ensure and assist in living out the mission of forming our students in moral living to celebrate life in a way that promotes the dignity of the human person as male and female.

“Since true education must strive for complete formation of the human person that looks to his or her final end as well as to the common good of societies, children and youth are to be nurtured in such a way that they are able to develop their physical, moral, and intellectual talents harmoniously, acquire a more perfect sense of responsibility and right use of freedom, and are formed to participate actively in social life.”

Libreria Editrice Vaticana, [Code of Canon Law](#), Canon 795.