

# Student Dress Code

## All Students

Student appearance should reflect the Christian values of the school, sensitivity to one another's culture, and respect for other people. Each student is expected to groom and dress neatly, cleanly, modestly, and appropriately for the activities of the school. Student attire should enhance rather than detract from the instructional process.

The school dress code is required for all school events, including graduation and extra curricular activities unless otherwise specified.

Clothing which will be deemed unacceptable includes army fatigues, halter tops, and shirts with vulgar or offensive slogans or commercials. Clothing should be neither too loose nor too tight, as determined by the assigned staff member. No underwear should be visible at any time. Clothing may not be torn, ripped or ragged. Bare shoulders or midriffs are not acceptable. A shirt or blouse is too short if the midriff shows when the arms are raised.

Footwear is required at all times during the day (7:30 AM - 3:22 PM) and at all times inside buildings and in the Industrial Arts area. When wearing sneakers, socks must be worn.

## Girls

For normal school activities girls may wear dresses, skirts and blouses, or culottes, slacks, jeans, or shorts with a blouse or T-shirt. The hem of dresses and skirts must at least touch the knee. The hem of shorts must be no more than 15 cm above the floor, measured while the student is in a kneeling position.

Shoulder straps must be at least four centimeters wide. Halter tops and racer-back tops are not allowed. Clothes must not be too tight, that is, the exact shape of the body should not be seen. When the arms are raised, the midriff should not show. No underwear or cleavage should show.

## Boys

For normal school activities boys may wear trousers, jeans, or shorts with a dress shirt, casual shirt, or T-shirt, not a tank top or muscle shirt (sleeveless shirts without deep arm holes are permitted). Clothes must not be too tight, and, when the arms are raised, the midriff or undergarments should not show. No underwear should show at any time.

## Chapel Dress

One day each week will be designated for chapel. For the entire day girls are

required to wear a dress or a skirt (that at least touches the knee) and top (not school T-shirt or athletic) with business formal or professional shoes (no canvas shoes, rubber flip-flops, or sandals with Velcro or wide rubber soles that contrast with the shoe color, nor very high heels that are not functional for a long day). Cargo skirts and denim are not considered dress clothes.

Examples of **acceptable** shoes for chapel days:



Examples of **unacceptable** shoes for chapel days:



For the entire day boys must wear dress trousers, a shirt with a collar, and business formal shoes (no athletic shoes or athletic-looking shoes, canvas shoes, rubber flip-flops, sandals with Velcro straps or rubber soles, or canvas deck shoes). Cargo pants are not considered dress clothes.

Examples of **acceptable** shoes for chapel days:



Examples of **unacceptable** shoes for chapel days:



## **Banquet and Valentine's Dance Attire:**

Everyone is expected to dress smartly (at least Chapel dress code); black tie (tuxedo/ball gown) is not a requirement. Footwear should be professional or formal shoes or dress sandals. Remember that cargo pants or skirts, denim attire, sports shoes, and flip-flops are not considered dress clothes.

For women, spaghetti straps are permitted. Dresses should not be see-through, entirely figure-hugging, backless, strapless, very low cut in the back, or have a

plunging neckline revealing cleavage. The midriff should not show when the arms are raised above the head; no underwear should show; hems must at least touch the knee.

For men, a sport coat or suit is recommended unless traditional Cameroonian men's formal wear is worn instead.

All students should wear chapel shoes. Women may wear high heels. Students violating these guidelines will be given alternate clothing to wear.

## Physical Education

For physical education class, students are required to wear a T-shirt and shorts. Girl's shorts may be mid-thigh length if spandex(bike shorts) are worn underneath. Yoga trousers are acceptable only if paired with a mid-thigh length shirt. Tights are acceptable only if worn under mid-thigh length shorts.

Shorts and shirts are available for purchase in the school office. PE clothes are to be worn for athletic activities only; students are required to wear clean attire following PE, unless PE is at the end of the day.

## Consequences

Students are expected to adhere to the dress code. Parents are urged to assist the school by monitoring their children's conformity to the dress code so that dress does not detract from the instructional setting or process.

Teachers are asked to help monitor the students' conformity to the dress code. If a teacher believes a student to be in violation of the dress code, he or she should have a quiet word with the student and, where possible, give the student the opportunity to rectify their dress code infringement. Please emphasize heart matters over legality. When a teacher speaks to a student, he or she should report the incident to the Assistant Director by email or to the person in charge of monitoring dress code so that further steps can be taken if necessary. This person will make the final decisions regarding tightness of clothing and will communicate expectations to parents where needed.

1. For the first infraction, a student will be given a verbal warning and asked to put on alternative clothes of their own or that we keep on hand.
2. For the second infraction students will be warned and asked to put on alternative attire that we keep on hand.
3. For the third infraction, the student will be given alternative clothing to put on and parents will be notified in writing of the pattern of behavior.

4. For the fourth infraction the student will put on provided clothing and immediately serve a halfday In-School Suspension. They will be warned that next violation will result in a new dress code for the rest of the quarter for them as an individual. They will also be warned that if there are two more violations in the next quarter the new dress code will apply for the rest of the school year.

5. For the Fifth Violation, the student will put on appropriate attire provided by the school and be given one of the following new dress codes

- if the problem is repeated short skirt the new individual dress code will be calf length skirts.
  
- If the problem is tight trousers the new individual dress code will be no more wearing of trousers (i.e. restricted to skirts).
  
- If the problem is inappropriate necklines the new individual dress code will require crew neck shirts or button up blouses closed to the top or first button.
  
- If the problem is short shorts the new individual dress code will require the student to no longer wear shorts except in PE when they must be knee length.
  
- If the problem is some other kind of violation the new dress code will be determined in negotiation with the administrator.
  
- If the problem involves a variety of violations the new individual dress code for the most common problem will be applied.

6. If there is a sixth violation (failure to meet the new dress code) - Parents will be called to come to the school bringing appropriate clothing. The student will receive unexcused absences while waiting in the office for the clothes to arrive (i.e.. the work missed cannot be made up).

7. Should there be more than six violations, it will be considered a category three offense (gross lack of respect for authority), which may result in suspension or expulsion.

It is not possible to anticipate all clothing possibilities; therefore, questions involving subjective judgments must be left to the discretion of the teachers and administration. However, parental involvement in enforcing the dress code before children leave home, is crucial to their success in meeting expectations.