

Dress standards

Through appropriate clothing choices, a student will practice honoring others. He or she will seek to demonstrate modesty, professionalism, gratitude, submission to authority, and respect for the institution and community.

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Gal. 5.13-14

Important note:

If you turned to this policy first, or before reading other significant preceding ones, you testify to the power of clothing in today's culture. Some will turn here to see how much freedom they have, fearful they might have to surrender much in personal expression. Conversely, others will search the guidelines because it's important for them to know if others will be appropriately limited, so their family's convictions regarding modesty and dress will not be offended. Because the potential for divisiveness and misunderstanding related to this singular issue is high, extra space and explanation about dress are afforded here (and in the appendixes) to maximize the opportunity to encourage unity and community.

Some of these principles are duplicated from those introduced in the "Character Formation" section. They are repeated here since the dress standards section will be available as a stand-alone pamphlet and the principles are referenced.

Principles: Student dress will display:

- A professional appearance that denotes gratitude and respect for his or her occupation as a student
- An understanding and appreciation of personal modesty
- A willingness to honor others and to submit to their needs as more important than self
- A tangible display of obedience to authority through the conservative keeping of the spirit of the guidelines

Scriptural basis: For blessings and peace, believers are called to:

- Admit ownership of our bodies (and coverings) belongs to God and His instructions (1 Cor. 6:20 and 7:23)
- Seek modesty and propriety, not as pagans seeking to push the envelope (1 Pet. 3:3-4; 1 Tim. 2:9)
- Not be overly concerned about clothing and physical appearance (Luke 12:27-28)
- Honor others more than self. Submit to those weaker, not causing them to stumble; (1 Cor. 10:31-33; Ro. 12:10, Ro. 14:20)
- Recognize the opportunity to be "faithful in small matters" (Luke 16:10)
- Wholeheartedly submit to authority and community, knowing it is Jesus who is really served (Eph. 6:5-8)
- Realize the issue is so much greater than "mere clothes" -- that all issues are heart issues. (Prov. 4:23)

2019-20 modifications

There is no change to the basic dress standards, which have been in place without change since 2013.

Simple interpretation in response to styles is added for clarification.

See:

General #5 (overly casual)

Bottoms (Joggers)

Footwear (plastic and rubber shoes)

Introduction: clothing is just a cover up

The guidelines below cannot satisfy everyone's personal convictions or desires. That is not their purpose. Rather, their goal is to acknowledge the diverse range among personal, denominational, and cultural norms, and to create a uniform range that seeks respectful compromise. As the Apostle Paul repeatedly communicated to the Corinthians, disputes about clothing or food, etc. are not the important issue, but just a cover-up for the real issue: the person's heart motives and love for others.

The dress standards are intended to give a practical witness to LPA's purpose to honor God and to biblically train students. Willing obedience to the spirit of the dress standards is a condition of the privilege of being an enrolled student, of being on campus, and of involvement in school activities.

Dress standard details

Interpretation: professionalism and modesty

- The administration reserves the right to determine what is appropriate LPA dress, relative to the standards.
- When any question exists about appropriate dress or its interpretation, the student or parent should proactively seek counsel from an administrative leader. Wearing questionable items without first asking, forcing staff to react and comment after the fact, can be perceived as presumptive, confrontational or haughty.

General: professionalism and modesty

1. As an overarching guideline, attire should focus others' attention upon a person's face, which is man's glory.
2. The occupation of student is an active one. Students participate in a wide range of indoor and outdoor tasks and situations, including bending, reaching, stooping, lifting, carrying, and sitting on the floor, etc. Clothing choices should reflect this need for multi-purpose garments that provide both comfort and modesty in all situations. Student attire will not be considered a valid excuse for not fully participating in any teacher or staff-organized activity.
3. Clothing will be neat, clean, and free from holes, rips, handwriting, or conspicuous stains.
4. All that can be seen by others must meet the dress standards.
5. Attire will avoid being overly casual.
For example, the following are deemed inappropriate: pajama bottoms, athletic wear -- such as sports pants and sweat pants, and sports jerseys. For footwear, slippers, inexpensive quality, plastic flip flops, plastic/rubber Crocs, and athletic "sliders" are inappropriate.
6. Clothing must be opaque. Any sheer, translucent, or perforated accessories shall be layered over outer garments.
7. No part of underwear, including straps should be visible. Retail stores label it "intimate apparel" for a reason.
8. Clothing should be the person's appropriate size, neither fitting excessively tightly nor too loosely, to avoid an immodest design or a safety hazard.
 - a. Excessively tight clothing is that which reveals more about body features than is appropriate, due to tight tailoring, elastic content, etc. As a simple guideline for appropriate fit, a parent should be able to easily gather a section of the fabric in his or her fingers. Examples of inappropriate wear would include extremely form-fitting jeans or active wear, bicycle shorts, and tights worn as an outer garment.
 - b. Overly loose or flimsy garments pose their own issues. Garments should not allow immodest revealing through gapping, floating, and slipping, nor should their looseness cause safety issues by dragging or catching.
9. Students shall dress traditionally according to their gender.
10. Imprinted clothing is a method of speech, and therefore should contain wording and/or images that are positive, wholesome, edifying, and supportive of LPA's mission and core values. Humor is no excuse for inappropriate messages. Imprints may not be positioned to draw the eye to specific body parts.
11. One's appearance should not draw undue attention by being overly flashy, gaudy, or distracting.

12. Primary daily grooming is to be done at home, and so related materials such as hair curlers or combs left in the hair are inappropriate. Any light grooming, such as brushing hair and touching-up make-up is to be done in the restroom, and not anywhere else inside the buildings.

13. Temperatures inside facilities can vary by day and by room, and students also often participate in unannounced outdoor activities. The student is responsible for considering appropriate layers for personal comfort and utility.

14. Students anywhere on campus or at off-campus LPA activities must be dressed according to the standards at all times and in all places unless given clear instructions otherwise. Athletes and P.E. activity students may change into LPA athletic gear immediately before their activity.

Standard campus dress

Tops: Shirts, blouses, etc.

- All tops must have sleeves.
- No "off-the-shoulder" styles are permitted.
- If sweaters or other cover-ups are worn, these items may not be removed if they cause standards to become unmet.
- All tops are required to extend far enough below the beltline -- or to be tucked in -- so there is no midriff or lower back skin exposed at any point of a student's extended movement or posture.
- Shirt tails for males should not extend past the bottom of normal pants hip pocket.
- The tailoring of ladies' tops should feature modest necklines so cleavage is not exposed.
- Boys shall wear shirts in the presence or possible presence of females, even in athletic activities.

Bottoms: Pants, shorts, skirts, and dresses

- Bottom garments should not drag the floor
- Bottom garments must be worn above the hips, and when loose they must be fastened with a belt or suspenders.
- Pants, slacks, khakis, and blue jeans are all suitable, assuming they meet the general conditions. Deemed overly casual, athletic wear, including athletic bottoms (shorts and long pants), sweat pants, etc. are not allowed.
Joggers, the popular genre that usually includes elastic cuffed pants are allowed, so long as the ones that most

mimic khaki pants or slacks. There is a wide variety of styles and materials in the Joggers menu. Those styles that more closely resemble athletic pants in colors, stripes, and accents, are not suitable.

- Ladies are expected to choose modest dresses, skirts, and “skorts.” The minimum length of these is “at the knee,” regardless of tights or other garments underneath. Because of differing styles, body types, and the constant growth of young people, an acceptable range is within three inches of the kneecap.

The intention of this allowance is that the garment be at or near the knee and not riding up the thigh. This allowance is meant as maximum grace and not to become a new standard, from which students seek further grace to exceed.

- Shorts may be worn by both genders if they honor the “at the knee” length and allowance as described above, and if they are constructed of reasonably thick material. Lightweight thickness such as in running shorts is inappropriate.

Elementary considerations

- The rate and proportion of body growth in elementary girls can challenge garment measurements. Through grade 6, young ladies may follow a “fingertip” guideline for shorts, whereby the length of the shorts should be at least at or below her fingertips when her hands are allowed to hang naturally by her side.
- Due to active play, activities, and floor seating, girls in K5-2nd shall wear modesty shorts under dresses and skirts.

Footwear: Shoes and sandals

- For safety, footwear must be worn at all times on campus and at school activities.
- *Inexpensive quality, plastic flip flops, plastic/rubber “Crocs,” and athletic “sliders” are inappropriate. Nicer quality and appearance sandals and slip on shoes are acceptable.*
- **Elementary students** -- must wear shoes that tightly surround the heel. *Strapped river sandals, Crocs, etc. are acceptable if they firmly enclose the foot, and are worn with the straps engaged.*
- **Secondary students** -- may wear shoes not enclosing the heel. Inexpensive quality, plastic flip flops, *plastic/rubber “Crocs,”* and athletic “sliders” are inappropriate. Nicer quality and appearance sandals and slip on shoes are acceptable
- Since high heels are not conducive to campus conditions and activities, two inches is maximum heel height.
- Shoes with fasteners, such as shoestrings, straps, Velcro, etc., must be fastened at all times.
- Rubber, non-slip soles are urged, as tile and vinyl floors on campus can be slippery in both wet and dry conditions.

Headwear: Hair and head accessories

- Hair shall be clean, neatly styled, and kept out of the eyes at all times -- to encourage eye-to-eye communication.
- Hairstyles that call undue attention to an individual student are immodest, and therefore inappropriate. Hair should be of reasonably conservative coloring and cut. The time to ask about acceptability is before the styling or dying.

- Appropriate head coverings and hats are welcome outdoors, but are not to be worn in the campus buildings. This includes hats, caps, visors, sweatbands, head scarves, bandanas, etc.
- Ear buds, head phones, etc. are inappropriate to community goals, communicating “I’m not listening or available”

Eyewear: Glasses and lenses

- Since the eye is the lamp of the body (Mt. 6:22-23), and because eyeball-to-eyeball communication is vital to the human connection sought in LPA’s community, no eyewear should interfere with seeing one’s eyes.
- Clear, vision-correcting lenses are the only glasses to be worn indoors, except for medically-documented and administration-approved reasons.
- Students may wear sunglasses/tinted lenses outside, but are to remove them, if asked, for conversation purposes.

Accessories: Stylish but non-essential

- A young lady’s use of cosmetics is a parent decision; Make-up should be worn in conservative amounts and application.
- Accessories should be limited and conservative in both appearance and size.
- For safety, items such as overly long or tight necklaces, clothes or wallet chains, spiked bands, etc., are not allowed.
- To maximize safety, teachers and coaches may require jewelry and accessory removal during specific activities.

Exceptions: Special dress-related instances

- At administrative discretion, dress exceptions may be made for a student’s legitimate faith or medical reasons.
- Students may be allowed or required to meet different standards for certain LPA-related activities, such as activities and athletic events sponsored by associations, sports leagues, etc.
- Hosts or operators of field trips and events may have unique requirements. In cases of special dress requirements, the event leader will notify participants in advance. Honoring the standards of the host is a requirement for participation.
- Administration may grant limited dress variance for special purposes, provided that standards of modesty are upheld. These might include special dress-up / spirit days, fine arts /drama events, work days, activities, formal dances, etc.
- Athletes and physical education (P.E.) students may have acceptably different dress parameters, as stated in the athletics manual and/or communicated by the athletic director through the coaches. LPA athletic wear is modest, compared to the world’s sports standards, but its acceptability at sporting events is not to be interpreted as permission to wear the articles to campus or other events outside game or practice use unless they satisfy normal dress standards.
- Any variance made for specific, special instances is not to be interpreted as permissible dress for other occasions.

Dress standards for activities

1. Regular dress standards

These detailed standards are not just for campus use, but are for a host of other activities as well, such as field trips, extra-curricular events, etc. Unless an alternate standard is clearly communicated, students are expected to follow the regular standards.

2. Active dress standards

These standards include athletic and movement-related and/or outdoors-oriented activities, such as field-day, informal sports opportunities (e.g., dodgeball event), work day, engaging elementary students at recess, and similar activities. These follow the standards as communicated by the student life director for SL events.

3. Formalwear standards

These standards would apply to situations in which students are to “dress up”. Examples would include fall debates and formal social events. Formal attire may have some variances for styles, but the general approach should equate “formal” with “conservative”

4. Special or Modified standards

These standards are often expressed as special modifications to one of the three other standards. Communications might include language such as the following: “Regular dress standards apply, except that all students must wear a red top for the field trip.”

Counsel and enforcement

When dress and appearance standards are not met, the following procedures will be observed.

As supported by Second Peter chapter 2 and Galatians chapter 5, dress standards provide a student an opportunity to demonstrate biblical obedience to honor authority and others.

- Students who violate dress standards will be referred to an administrative staff member, who will seek to evaluate both the dress concern and the student’s attitude about it.
- Teachers are asked to help monitor dress and appearance issues, but they do not have the duty to intervene in them. This helps to protect a student from being addressed by multiple people in multiple settings for the same issue.
- In questionable instances, the staff member will determine the appropriateness of a given student’s appearance and his or her attempt to comply with the standards.
- Violations will be treated as educational and character development opportunities. The administration will operate from a range of possible disciplinary options, in order to appropriately respond to the seriousness of the incident, the student’s responsive attitude, and the frequency of a student’s pattern of previous incidents relative to dress and other standards.

Procedures differ by grade level

Addressing dress standard issues will be approached differently between the elementary and secondary levels:

Elementary:

- Normal procedure will be for a staff member to discuss the matter with a parent.
- By keeping the matter between adults, parents may then choose an appropriate family method to translate the needed correction to dress or appearance and to then address it.

Secondary:

- An admin staff member will usually counsel the student on dress or appearance infractions.

Where possible, the staff member will be of the same-gender as the student.

- The staff member will normally provide the student a copy of the standards with the area in question indicated.
- Depending upon significance and pattern, the staff member may then contact the parent as necessary.

Consequences for dress standards violation

Staff may use discernment to issue a warning, in unusual situations. Correction is expected.

1. First occurrence:

- a. The student will be addressed on the particular issue and provided information necessary for correction.

In the elementary grades, the parent will be contacted instead of the student, typically through a simple email, so that the parent may correct and counsel as needed.

- b. The incident will be noted.
- c. The parent will receive simple notification.

2. Second occurrence:

- a. The student will be addressed and corrected.
In the elementary grades, the parent will be contacted.
- b. The incident will be noted.
- c. The parent will be notified and apprised of any trend and consequences of future occurrences.
- d. The parent will be contacted, according to the point of need, according to the discernment of the admin staff.

3. Third occurrence:

- a. The student will be addressed and corrected.
In the elementary grades, the parent will be contacted.
- b. The incident will be noted.
- c. The parent will be contacted to schedule a conference to discuss the trend, the motives, and resulting consequences.

Options for addressing infractions

Depending upon the infraction’s seriousness, LPA staff members may follow one or more of the following options:

- Direct the student to remove or replace a non-conforming item
- Request the student to change into school-issued clothing
- Have a student phone a parent to deliver replacement clothes
- LPA reserves the right to have the student remain out of class in a designated area until the matter is satisfactorily addressed.