

# DRESS AND APPEARANCE POLICY

Rev. 06/22/2015

The Dress and Appearance Policy applies whenever a student is on campus for a school event. Each item in the policy refers to BOTH male and female students unless otherwise specified. For special events, at school or off-campus, acceptable variations to the policy may be announced.

The MVA Dress and Appearance Policy reflects the values of the school as a Christian institution. Student dress and appearance should reflect respect for self and respect for others. The goal of this policy is to help students be focused and active learners throughout the school day.

**Core Values:** Neatness, cleanliness, safety, modesty, good taste, and the avoidance of extremes are at the heart of the MVA Dress and Appearance Policy.

## NEATNESS & CLEANLINESS

All students SHOULD strive to keep a neat and hygienic appearance.

The following applies to all items of clothing worn:

- No holes.
- No ragged or worn-out edges.
- No items worn inside-out.
- No items with faded colors.
- Shirts and blouses should be properly buttoned and tucked in at all times (see section on shirts and blouses below).

## SAFETY

While on campus, students must wear shoes that properly cover their feet. This means shoes must be closed-toed and completely cover the foot or have a back strap. Specific footwear may be mandated for activities such as labs and sports activities.

The following are NOT allowed:

- Flip flops.
- Open-toed sandals.
- Shoes with untied laces.

## MODESTY

**CLOTHING** should be appropriately **FITTED** and provide adequate coverage.

- All clothing (bottoms and tops) should be more loose fitting and not skin tight.
- Shorts and skirts must be **NO SHORTER** than three inches measured from the top the knee (NOTE: because of the stairs, it is strongly suggested that shorts/spandex be worn underneath skirts and dresses).
- Spandex and leggings are only appropriate when worn under some other approved clothing.

The following is not allowed:

- **TIGHT CLOTHING** (NOTE: if an item is properly fitted you will be able to pinch at least 1/4 inch of fabric between your fingers at the tightest location without stretching the material).
- **REVEALING CLOTHING.** This includes clothing that reveals underwear of any kind at any time (including bending, reaching, using the stairs, etc.) and clothing that exposes the midriff, shoulders, underarms, and/or chest areas.
- **EXCESSIVELY LOOSE CLOTHING** that sags or drags on the ground.

**JEWELRY** should NOT be worn at school or any school-sponsored event. Jewelry includes, but is not limited to, bracelets, rings, necklaces, chains, earrings, and other piercings.

**SHEER CLOTHING** is not allowed unless worn over/as a part of clothing items that comply with the requirements of this policy (fit, length, modesty, good taste, etc.).

**WORDS AND LOGOS** are NOT permitted on any items of clothing (including outerwear) or accessories including hats, shoes, belts, scarves, socks, etc.), unless they fit one of the following criteria:

- Small brand logos and labels with writing (small means no larger than a credit card)
- School logos, including that of MVA and other accredited institutions

## **GOOD TASTE**

As a sign of respect and decorum, the following should not be worn while indoors:

- Hats.
- Hoods.
- Head wraps of any kind (scarves, etc.).
- Bandanas.

**ATHLETIC WEAR is acceptable ONLY in PE classes and sports activities.** The PE instructor may permit certain modifications for gym wear only.

**PANTS, SLACKS, SHORTS, SKIRTS, AND CAPRIS** must meet the modesty requirements and be looser fitting and no shorter than three inches above the knee (see above for specifics). Pants, slacks, shorts, skirts, and capris should be entirely in a single, solid color and should follow the words and logos policy (see above). (NOTE: because of the stairs, it is strongly suggested that shorts/spandex be worn underneath skirt).

The following styles of pants, etc., are **NOT ALLOWED**:

- Skinny pants of any kind.
- Jeggings or leggings (worn on their own as pants).
- Cargo pants or shorts.
- Blue jeans/denim.
- Items that are faded in color.

**SHIRTS, BLOUSES, AND TOPS** must meet the modesty requirements and be looser fitting and not revealing (see above for specifics). Tops must also follow the words and logo policy (see above). Students must wear policy-approved tops **AT ALL TIMES** when on campus. Outerwear (including jackets, coats, vests, hooded sweatshirts, etc.) will not be considered as meeting the policy requirements. A Dress Policy compliant shirt, blouse, or top must be worn underneath all outerwear.

- Men's wear is a **COLLARED** shirt (button up, button down, polo, golf shirt, etc.) or a pull-over style sweater (crew neck, v-neck, mock neck, turtleneck, etc.). Students may wear collared shirts that are dressier than business casual. **NO** t-shirts. Cardigan style sweaters may be worn over collared shirts but not over t-shirts.
- Women's wear is a **BLOUSE** (button up, button down, tunic, collar, tab collar, polo, etc.) or a pull-over style sweater (crew neck, v-neck, cowl-neck, turtleneck, etc.). Blouses must have sleeves. Students may wear tops that are dressier than business casual. **NO** t-shirts. Cardigan style sweaters may be worn over blouses or any other Dress Policy approved top but not over t-shirts, tank tops, or camisoles (which are all tops considered out of the Dress Policy).
- Women may wear dresses that are entirely in a single, solid color and meet the fit and length requirements of no shorter than three inches when measure from the top of the knee (see above for specifics). (NOTE: because of the stairs, it is strongly suggested that shorts/spandex be worn underneath dresses).

Shirts, blouses, and tops without a straight-bottom hem must be **TUCKED IN**. Tops with a straight-bottom hem may be left untucked.

Visible **TATTOOS** (real or otherwise) are not allowed.

## **AVOIDANCE OF EXTREMES**

**CLOTHING** (including hats, shoes, and other accessories) depicting or referencing anything deemed inappropriate (such as gangs, violence, drugs, obscenities, etc.) is not allowed.

**HAIR** should be cut and worn in a natural, neat, and clean style. **UNNATURAL** hair colors are not allowed (unnatural refers to any color that does not naturally grow from the human head). Hair worn in any **EXTREME** style, such as spiked longer than one inch, is not allowed.

## **SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

The Dress and Appearance policy values of neatness, cleanliness, modesty, good taste, and avoidance of extremes still apply to special occasions with some additions to the policy.

## **FORMAL BANQUETS AND CLASS NIGHT DRESS AND APPEARANCE POLICY**

Before each formal-dress event, all students will be required to attend an information session detailing the dress and appearance policy for that event. This will ensure that all students are aware of the Dress Policy and will have a clear understanding of the consequences should they choose not to follow the Dress Policy. If students are unsure if their chosen outfit meets the Dress Policy, they are encouraged to seek advice from a faculty or staff member.

**DRESSES AND SKIRTS** must be **NO SHORTER** than three inches measured from the top of the knee. This includes hems **AND** slits. Dresses and tops may **NOT** be backless. The back of a dress or top must cover a standard bra strap across the base of the shoulder blades. If a dress or top contains sheer parts, the non-sheer portion of the dress or top must meet the length, revealing, and back requirements (see above). Dresses and tops may **NOT** contain cutouts unless they are modestly placed (i.e. not in the midriff, lower back, or chest areas). The cutouts of a dress or top must meet the length, back, and sheer requirements stated above.

**SUITS, SPORT COATS, AND SLACKS** are appropriate formal attire. A formal shirt must also be worn. Shorts and other more formal attire are **NOT** allowed.

## **PICNIC AND BEACH EVENTS**

Clothing for special events should comply with the general Dress Policy with the following exceptions. Students may wear:

- Jeans that follow the modesty requirements for fit are permitted (see above).
- Class t-shirts.
- Flip flops and open-toed sandals (only to beach events).

## **MANAGEMENT OF POLICY**

To manage the policy during school hours the following protocol will be followed:

- Students who are not following the policy will be asked to correct the infraction by editing their outfit (adding items or removing items) before returning to class or other activities.
- If this is not possible the student will be sent to the office until their parent/guardian is able to solve the problem by bringing them clothes taking the student home.
- Dress and Appearance Policy infractions are considered to be a violation of the discipline policy and students who do not follow the policy will receive referrals.
- Teachers are under no obligation to assist students with making up homework, lectures, quizzes, or tests missed due to Dress and Appearance Policy violations.