

Dress Code

At Plaza Heights Christian Academy, we recognize that appearance does not conclusively reflect a person's spiritual condition and that no dress code is perfect. However, clothing and appearance have an influence on attitude, behavior, and schoolwork.

As in every area of our lives, clothing, and the way we wear it, should represent our desire to please God and honor Him. The following dress code is set forth in the interest of modesty as well as our desire to provide ease of interpretation, compliance, and enforcement.

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their students are in complete compliance with the school's dress code standards. Students may not attend class when not in dress code. The absence from class will be considered excused but not school related. The work will be permitted to be turned in or the teacher may bring the work to the office. The student will not be permitted to go home to change unless direct communication from a parent grants permission.

Each student will be permitted two dress code violations per quarter. Detentions will be served for the 3rd and 4th violation and a one day in-school suspension for the 5th. The student may also face Stage 2 consequences for the 5th violation.

In addition, the Administration may establish a "contract" with the student addressing the issue and identifying future consequences.

Boys are permitted to wear:

Pants, Shorts, Dress Slacks, Khakis, or Jeans may be worn. They should be worn at the waist or just below the waist. Pants that are labeled "regular", "loose fit", "relaxed", or "baggy" are acceptable styles. A belt must be worn if pants are loose and cannot stay at the waist, or just below the waist, without one. Boys are also allowed to wear shorts (no cut-off shorts). Shorts are to be walking style or cargo style and no shorter than three inches from the top of the knee.

Shirts: Collared shirts, dress shirts, polos, Henley button style, turtlenecks, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, or sweaters may be worn. If a student is wearing a hoodie, the hood may not be worn on the head during school hours. While writing and brand symbols can be worn, students are not allowed to wear shirts or tops with writing or symbols on them that are of a political or a divisive nature that would not be in keeping with the mission of PHCA and the unity found in Jesus Christ. Anything considered distracting or divisive will not be allowed to be worn.

Shoes: Dress shoes, athletic shoes, sandals, or boots are acceptable.

Other: Belts must be worn, if needed, to keep pants in the appropriate location, as outlined above. Undergarments should not be seen at any time. Tongue piercings are not allowed. Visible tattoos are not permitted. Boys or girls: hair color must be natural. Extreme and overt hairstyles are not allowed.

Girls are permitted to wear:

Pants, Shorts, Dress Slacks, Khakis, or Jeans may be worn. They should be worn at the waist or just below the waist. Pants that are labeled regular, loose fit, relaxed, or baggy are acceptable styles. Other styles (including leggings, yoga pants, etc.) can be worn with a top that comes to mid-thigh. Jeans that are form fitting or skintight will not be permitted without the top which will come to at least mid-thigh. Walking style shorts may be worn if they are no shorter than 5 inches from the floor when kneeling. In general, pants should be size appropriate and modest in appearance.

We know that much of this is somewhat subjective. Therefore, the school reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of the item of clothing. We have placed this responsibility on female staff chosen by the administration to allow our teachers to be able to focus on the student learning process.

Dresses or Skirts: Must be to the top of the knee or longer (including all slits and layers) unless leggings or other layers are worn underneath, and then skirts will need to be no more than 5 inches from the floor when kneeling.

Shirts: Blouses, polo's, turtlenecks, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies or sweaters may be worn. No crop-tops or shirts that expose the midriff will be allowed. If a student is wearing a hoodie the hood may not be worn on the head during school hours. While writing and brand symbols can be worn, students are not allowed to wear shirts or tops with writing or symbols on them that are of a political or a divisive nature that would not be in keeping with the mission of PHCA and the unity found in Jesus Christ. Anything considered distracting or divisive will not be allowed to be worn.

Shoes: Dress shoes, athletic shoes, sandals, dressy flip-flops, or boots are acceptable.

Other: For girls, moderation should be used with makeup and jewelry. Undergarments should not be seen at any time. Tongue piercings are not allowed. Visible tattoos are not permitted. Boys or girls: hair color must be natural. Extreme and overt hairstyles are not allowed.

General Dress Code Guidelines

Boys and girls should not wear:

Oversized clothing (if you have a 36-inch waist, do not buy a size 40 pants)

- Tight fitting clothing (if you are a size 6, don't buy a size 4)
- Tank tops or sleeveless tops
- Low-cut tops (no cleavage should be showing)
- Pants that have, or have the appearance of, holes, rips, tears, or frays on them anywhere above the allowable shorts length.
- Saggy, droopy seats in pants
- Earrings (boys)
- House slippers or house slipper looking shoes, or moccasins (except on special designated days)
- Hats (except on special designated days or for extra curriculum events)
- Painted finger nails (boys)
- Pajama pants

Grooming: All clothing is to be neat and clean. Hair should be clean and neatly combed. Girls' and boys' hair should not cover their eyes. Hair color must be natural. No symbols or words should be cut or dyed into the hair. Emphasis will be placed on neatness, cleanliness, and appropriate dress.

Chapel Days: Dressing up is encouraged on chapel days.

Extracurricular Activities: The dress code applies to all practices, competitive events (both home and away), afterschool activities, and other school-related events. When attending an off-campus event, all students are required to dress in accordance with the supervising teacher's/coach's directions. It is important to note also that when at away events, all students, players, coaches, and parents need to be aware that the hosting school's dress code may be more restrictive than Plaza Heights Christian Academy's. Although we are not bound by their dress code, we should strive to be an example and respect their dress code. No hats of any type should be worn in any building whether it is a gymnasium or other facility.

Special Occasions: There are specially designated days or weeks of the year such as "Spirit Week" when the normal dress code will be relaxed to allow clothing not normally allowed, i.e. sweats, pajama pants, hats and slippers. Such exceptions will be clearly communicated and should never violate the overarching standard of modesty.

For evening programs, graduation, special chapels, and other special occasions, students will be asked to dress up. Girls should wear nice dresses or slacks and dress shoes. Boys should wear nice slacks, dress shirts, and dress shoes. Scout uniforms may be worn at school on scout meeting days only.

Activities where dresses are worn: All dresses should meet the standards for the normal dress code of the school. This includes the fact that dresses must be to the top of the knee or longer. The legging rule will apply as necessary for skirt length. No undergarments should be visible. Dresses should not be low-cut or have plunging necklines or expose the waist. Violators will receive a shawl to wear for the evening and have possible additional consequences. Modesty is to be the basic principle in consideration of dressy wear.

Dress Code for the high school banquet: Because of the unique formal wear available for girls, the following guidelines are set:

- Slits in the dress will be no higher than the skirt/short length rule for normal wear.
- No bare midriffs in the front.
- The top half of the back may be exposed, but not the bottom half.
- Strapless and narrow straps are permitted.
- The dress top must be modest and show no cleavage when standing or sitting.
- Photos of student wearing the dress may be brought to the school in advance to assure compliance.

Non-PHCA dates must abide by this same dress code. Please communicate these standards clearly to your outside date to avoid an embarrassing situation for them.

Plaza Heights Christian Academy reserves the right to advise and discipline any student about personal appearance that may be considered distracting or deemed inappropriate by the school administration.