



2202 STUDENT DRESS CODE

Policy Type: Educational Programs
Applies To: All Staff, Students,
Approved By: LCS Head of Schools
Policy Reviewed: every 2 years
Adopted: 2014
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08 2021
08 2022
12 2024

1. PURPOSE:

Our appearance should reflect a positive expression of our core values as a Christian community. Appearance is encouraged to be modest, respectful, appropriate for a professional work environment, and conducive to learning or the specific activity students are engaged in.

How we present ourselves communicates our shared values and attitudes, and it is important that LCS students, through their personal appearance, reflect LCS's standards whenever they are involved in a school activity.

- (a) The intent of a dress guideline is to set expectations to assist students, staff, and parents in decision-making with respect to clothing. Clothing may reflect personal identity and choice but must be tempered against the responsibility to respect the traditional and shared values of our community, and to steward our reputation as a professional workplace. Our expectation is that parents and caregivers share in the responsibility to help staff encourage appropriate dress for the school and workplace.
- (b) The guidelines are intended to provide a level of clarity so that correction or discipline is not required. Staff members have a responsibility to assist students in understanding and abiding by the LCS Student Dress Code.
- (c) The school administration has the responsibility and authority to apply the dress guidelines as necessary and to decide if a student's dress is not consistent with the guidelines. If any student dresses in a manner inconsistent with the stated values and dress guidelines of LCS, the student will be advised personally and discretely and given an opportunity to meet the guidelines.
- (d) As a Christian community of unique individuals (Romans 5:12) we hold in common the expectation that outward conduct is more important than how we dress (Colossians 3:12), but also that we are to treat our bodies as holy and made in the image of God (1 Corinthians 6:19).

2. ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE (K-8) DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

(a) General requirements:

- 2.a.1. Final decisions regarding the interpretation of the guidelines rests with the principal or designate.
- 2.a.2. Clothing must conform with established health and safety requirements for the intended activity or conditions.
- 2.a.3. Clothing should be modest, fit well and not overly revealing. Undergarments should not be visible.
- 2.a.4. Shorts and skirts should be an appropriate length while in a classroom setting.
- 2.a.5. Boys and girls in pre-K through grade 5 may wear tank tops that are modest. The midriff may not be visible.
- 2.a.6. Students in grades 6-8 may not wear tank tops. Girls may wear modest, sleeveless blouses or dresses. The midriff may not be visible.
- 2.a.7. Clothes should fit comfortably and be worn without constant readjustment.
- 2.a.8. Slippers and pajamas are not permitted to be worn at school.
- 2.a.9. Clothing that is altered (i.e. sleeves removed) may not be worn in classrooms. Clothing items purposely designed with tears or holes are not permitted.

(b) Headwear & hats:

- 2.b.1. Hats and headwear may not be worn inside the school during school hours. Headbands are permitted for girls.
- 2.b.2. Hoods or other clothing that prevents others from easily identifying the student in classrooms may not be worn. Exceptions may be allowed for LCS school spirit wear or in cases where a short term intervention has been identified in an IEP or SBT recommendation.

(c) Footwear:

- 2.c.1. Footwear is always mandatory.
- 2.c.2. Sandals or flip flops may not be worn by Grade K-8 students in trades technology or physical education classrooms.
- 2.c.3. Elementary students (K-5) are not to wear flip flops or sandals due to safety concerns both in the classroom and on the playground.

(d) Makeup and Accessories:

- 2.d.1. K-5 students are not to wear makeup to school unless otherwise appropriate due to a performance or curricular activity.
- 2.d.2. Grade 6-8 students are discouraged from wearing makeup at school and may be required to remove it or cease using it if excessive, distracting or deemed inappropriate by the classroom teacher or administration.
- 2.d.3. K-8 students may be asked to remove accessories or jewelry if it restricts movement, is distracting or interferes with the learning environment.

3. HIGH SCHOOL (9-12) DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

(a) General requirements:

- 3.a.1. Final decisions regarding the interpretation of the guidelines rests with the principal or designate.
- 3.a.2. Clothing must conform with established health and safety requirements for the intended activity or conditions, especially in trades and technology classrooms.
- 3.a.3. Clothing should be modest and not overly revealing. Undergarments should not be visible.
- 3.a.4. Shorts and skirts should be an appropriate length while in a classroom setting.
- 3.a.5. Tank tops and muscle shirts are not permitted in classrooms. Girls may wear modest sleeveless dresses, blouses and tops. The midriff may not be visible.
- 3.a.6. Clothes should fit well and be worn without constant readjustment.
- 3.a.7. Slippers and pajamas are not permitted to be worn at school.
- 3.a.8. Clothing that is altered (i.e. sleeves removed) may not be worn in classrooms. Clothing items purposely designed with tears or holes are not permitted.

(b) Headwear & hats:

- 3.b.1. Hats and headwear may not be worn inside the school during school hours. Headbands are permitted for girls.
- 3.b.2. Hoods or other clothing that prevents others from easily identifying the student may not be worn. Exceptions may be allowed for LCS school spirit wear or in cases where a short term intervention has been identified in an IEP or SBT recommendation.

(c) Footwear:

- 3.c.1. Footwear is always mandatory.
- 3.c.2. Sandals or flip flops may not be worn by Grade 9-12 students in trades technology or physical education classrooms.

4. BRANDING & MESSAGING ON CLOTHING (K-12):

- (a) Articles of clothing that promote alcohol or drugs, that display offensive language or images, or that encourage sexism, racism or bigotry are not acceptable.
- (b) Clothing that projects politicized messaging or endorsing partisan political organizations or individuals is prohibited. Advocacy of political and social causes is not permitted.
- (c) Clothing bearing direct or indirect messages or graphics referring to criminal activity, gang culture, sex or pornography, weapons or violence will not be permitted.

5. AUTHORIZED EXCEPTIONS (K-12)

- (a) Exceptions due to school spirit days, dress-up days, performances or special events are permitted.

- (b) Exceptions to some guidelines may be extended to students when wearing officially sanctioned school spirit wear (or Lightning Athletics apparel) or on special event days.
- (c) The following features of student costumes or approved specially-themed dress on event days are prohibited at all times with no exceptions:
 - blood and gore;
 - occult images;
 - supernatural creatures (witches, ghosts, vampires, zombies, werewolves, etc.);
 - sexualized images;
 - face coverings or masks of any kind;
 - references to Nazism, Communism or any other modern or historically repressive and/or genocidal movement;

6. PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION GUIDELINES (Grades 6-12)

- (a) It is the expectation that Lightning physical education apparel, both shorts and t-shirts, are a requirement for all LCS physical education students in Grades 6-12.
- (b) Students are to wear physical education apparel during physical education class and then change apparel at the conclusion of class.
- (c) Students are welcome to wear LCS physical education apparel that was purchased in previous years.
- (d) The rationale for required physical education apparel includes:
 - Provides a sense of inclusiveness and unity among students in a physical education class (UNITY)
 - Ensures all clothing is safe and not restrictive in any way for engaging in physical activity (SAFE)
 - Ensures HPE teachers know that every student has changed into a different set of clothing from what they are wearing during school. (HYGIENE)
 - Eliminates all questions and discussion pertaining to the type of clothing that is appropriate for physical activity (CREATES CLARITY)
 - Builds a habit and discipline of being prepared for class with all required learning materials (HABIT FORMING)

7. PROCEDURES:

- (a) Students who refuse to adhere to these requirements will not be permitted to attend class or school events, including athletics.
- (b) Recurring offenses will be subject to disciplinary action according to the 2203 Student Discipline Guidelines.

- (c) Principals will outline campus specific procedures and consequences for non-compliance in their student and staff handbooks.

RELEVANT POLICIES:

2201 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

2203 STUDENT DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

Reviewed: 12 2024