

The guidelines regarding personal appearance are intended to promote an atmosphere where students can comfortably focus on learning and positive growth. Clothing should not distract from the educational process. The primary goal is that the student's appearance should be modest, neat, clean, and safe. A student's appearance should also reflect the Christian value of encouraging the focus on the inner self, not the outer. In general, any student's dress or appearance, while not specifically outlined below, may be considered unacceptable if it does not conform to the spirit of these standards and other WCGS community standards. Provisions for the *Appearance Code* shall be enforced equally for all students.

### **Responsibility of Parents**

- Parents should work with and guide their children to make good choices in the area of appropriate clothing and good grooming. We expect appropriate clothing and appearance decisions be handled at home to ensure compliance with WCGS standards.
- Because it is updated regularly to reflect current styles and trends, parents should review and familiarize themselves with the Appearance Code on an annual basis.
- Should your child's attire be deemed inappropriate, parents should expect to receive a call from the school and be prepared to bring a change of clothing.
- In order to set a good example for students and others who may be visiting our school, parents are respectfully requested to refrain from wearing abbreviated leisure and exercise attire, plunging necklines, halter tops, or tight and revealing clothing of any kind when visiting the school, no matter how brief the visit may be.

### **Guidelines**

#### ***General:***

- Clothes are to be clean and worn modestly and properly.
- Frayed or torn clothing is not acceptable for school wear.
- Oversized, baggy clothing or clothing that is too tight-fitting are not acceptable.
- All clothing should cover shoulder to mid-thigh, at a minimum.
- Underwear should not be visible.

#### ***Upper Garments:***

- Boys are to wear collared shirts. Appropriate choices are polo-style shirts, dress/oxford shirts with collars, or turtleneck shirts/sweaters. Shirt collars must be visible when worn under other garments (e.g. sweatshirts, sweaters, vests, jackets, etc.).
- Girls are to wear modest, dressy shirts (no "t-shirts") with high necklines front and back which stay in place and have no writing or pictures. Tops must be of a material and style so that undergarments are not visible. Girls may also wear dresses that meet these same guidelines. Dresses must touch the knee when standing and be modest when sitting.
- With the exception of WCGS Spirit Wear (which can be worn daily), garments worn at school should have NO writing or pictures. Visible logos should be smaller than a credit card.
- All shirts/tops (boys' and girls') should have some sort of sleeve – long, short, or cap – and should be properly buttoned at all times.

#### ***Lower Garments:***

- Jeans (of any color), khakis, cargo pants, and dress pants are permitted, but must not be frayed or torn.
- Pants may not be constructed of knit fabric. They must have pockets and should not be constructed in an overall style that is too tight or body shape revealing. Under no circumstances are leggings considered pants.
- **Skirts, skorts, and dresses must touch the knee when standing AND be modest when sitting.** Skirts should not have slits that reach above mid-thigh. **Leggings** may be worn under skirts and dresses that meet Appearance Code guidelines ("touch the knee when standing").

- Camouflage pants and shorts are not permitted.
- Shorts may be worn by students in grades K-5 during 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters. Junior High students (grades 6-8) may wear shorts throughout the school year, with the exception of chapel days, the Awards Assembly, or any other day for which more formal attire is prescribed. All shorts must come to below mid-thigh.
- Athletic wear such as warm-up pants, yoga pants, sweatpants, and sports shorts are not permitted.
- Unless worn as part of an approved athletic uniform OR underneath other garments that meet Appearance Code guidelines, spandex shorts/tights are not permitted at any school function.

***Hair/Grooming/Accessories:***

- Hair should be neatly trimmed and combed.
- Hair should not be below the eyebrows in the front.
- Boys' hair should be off the collar in the back.
- Extremes in hairstyles are not appropriate.
- Hats may not be worn indoors.
- Boys may not wear pierced jewelry; girls may wear pierced earrings (only).
- Boys and girls may wear rings, bracelets, and necklaces that are in good taste, moderate in number (one or two) and appearance, and non-distracting as determined by the school.
- Students may not wear jewelry during physical education classes or other athletic competition.
- Makeup may be worn in moderation by 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls only.

***Footwear:***

- Kdg-Grade 5: Closed shoes or closed-toe sandals are to be worn. Flip-flops, athletic sandals, or any other type of "open toe" footwear are not permitted. Socks are to be worn at all times by students in K-5.
- Junior High students (grades 6-8): Students may wear open-toe sandals without socks – all sandals must have a strap at the back, holding them firmly to the foot (no "flip-flops").

***Gym Clothes:*** For gym classes, students in grades 5-8 will wear uniforms purchased from the school. Gym shoes and white gym socks must be worn. For outdoor gym classes, sweatshirts and/or sweatpants may be worn when suggested by the gym teacher. No clothes worn in gym class are to be worn in the classroom, or vice versa. Gym clothes should be laundered weekly and identified with the student's name.

**Exceptions**

***General:***

- Teachers may instruct or give permission for students to dress outside of the *Appearance Code* as appropriate for certain field trips, special events, or theme days. In all of these cases, students will receive specific directions regarding what attire will be acceptable on that day.
- Special Dress Days—there will be occasions throughout the school year when alternative clothing may be worn. Examples include: School Spirit Day (see below), Career Day, Jersey Day, etc. Students/families will be advised in advance what clothing is acceptable on these days.

***Chapel Days/Awards Assembly:***

It is our intent that students recognize that chapel days are unique, special days that we come together as a school to corporately worship God. Just as our athletic teams often "dress up" for game days, to signify the distinctiveness of the day, we think it is appropriate for students to "dress up" on chapel days as an outward gesture of an inward attitude of our hearts. Students should refrain from wearing jeans, shorts, or sweatshirts on these days and boys in grades 6-8 should wear shirts with ties. Girls should wear pants, dresses or skirts that conform to our school appearance code. We do not desire to be legalistic or harsh in the application of these expectations, God ultimately cares more about our hearts than our clothes, but we do wish to signify that the day has a special meaning and purpose that is different from most school days. Similarly, students are asked to "dress up" for the annual Awards Assembly.

***Representing WCGS Off-Campus:***

Students may be off campus during or outside school hours for a variety of reasons, including field trips, service/outreach activities, fine arts activities, athletic contests, etc. Unless specifically instructed otherwise, the WCGS standards of behavior and appearance are in effect at any and all school-sponsored or school-related events.

**Enforcement*****Grades K-4:***

- The classroom teacher will contact the parent requesting greater attention be given to adherence to the school's Appearance Code. Repeated violations will be handled by school administration and may require a change of clothing to be brought from home.

***Grades 5-8:***

- The teacher will address the violation with the student and the student will go to the office to call parents for a change of clothing. Should circumstances prohibit a change of clothing being brought from home, students will be provided with appropriate garments from the WCGS office "wardrobe" to wear for the day.
- Parents' support for the natural process of consequential decisions by students is greatly appreciated and helpful in the maturation process.

Our goal at WCGS is not to inconvenience parents at home or at work during the school day, therefore parents should make themselves familiar with the Appearance Code and ensure that their child is appropriately dressed before leaving home each day.