

Northwest Christian High School

“The Northwest Way” - Dress Guidelines

While the Northwest Christian High School recognizes that opinions vary considerably regarding appropriate dress, NCHS has established simple guidelines, which students are required to follow while on campus. It is our desire that students live and conduct themselves in a manner pleasing to God. Cleanliness, neatness, appropriateness, and modesty are the general guiding factors with regard to dress. NCHS staff will enforce dress guidelines and educate all students regarding these guidelines. Questions concerning the standard of dress should be directed to the school administration, which will make the final determination as to appropriateness.

The Heart of the Dress Guidelines

To honor God with our appearance. *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* (Colossians 3:17)

To pursue purity and reject worldliness. *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Romans 12:1-2)

To look to leadership for guidance. *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.* (Hebrews 13:17)

To esteem others more highly than ourselves. *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.* (Philippians 2:3-4)

Expectation for All Students

Students must dress modestly and appropriately at all times.

Hairstyles and fashion should avoid extremes.

- Footwear
 - Must be worn at all times.
 - For Physical Education, sports shoes and socks are the only appropriate footwear.
- Pants/Shorts
 - Must be worn at or above the hip bones.
 - Tears or holes (distressing) may only appear at or below fingertip length.
 - Shorts must be be fingertip length or longer.
- Shirts/Tops
 - Tops must be long enough that when the arms are fully extended and raised overhead, the midriff is not exposed.

- Sleeveless shirts must be at least 3 finger widths on the shoulder. No undergarments (or portions of undergarments) or excessive skin (front, side, midriff, or back) may be showing.
- Clothing design logos or endorsements of products may not refer to or infer gambling, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, foul language, sex, violence, secular music and/or negative mass media.
- Hair and Accessories
 - Hair must be a natural color.
 - Hats, hoods, and/or sunglasses should not be worn in class or chapel.
 - Earrings may be worn in ears (no plugs allowed).
 - In compliance with Washington Code §26.28.085 no minors, under age 18, may have visible permanent tattoos.

Specifics for Gentlemen

- Acceptable dress includes: shoes, long pants or loose-fitting shorts, warm-ups and shirts - all in accordance with the guidelines above.

Specifics for Ladies

- Acceptable dress includes: shoes, skirts/dresses (no shorter than 3” above the knee), pants or loose-fitting shorts, warm-ups and shirts - all in accordance with the guidelines above.
- Small studs may be worn in the nose. No other facial piercings, including tongue.
- Leggings are permitted when worn with a dress, skirt, or shirt no shorter than fingertip length.

Enforcement Policy

On a first violation of the dress guidelines, a student will be given a verbal warning, helped to immediately correct the situation, and parents will be contacted. Upon second violation, a student may be asked to go home to change his/her clothing and parents will again be contacted. Should a problem continue after clear warnings have been given, appropriate action will be taken by the administration, which may include, but is not limited to, detention or suspension.

The Dress Code is in effect whenever students are on school premises, for any campus events that are off-campus, or where NCHS is being represented (i.e., field trips, school programs, etc.).

Administration reserves the right to amend the dress guidelines at any time.