

HCS Dress Code



PURPOSE

The purpose of the uniform dress code is to clarify a standard of appearance that reflects biblical principles of modesty, appropriateness, gender distinctiveness, and stewardship which will encourage students to bring glory to God (1 Corinthians 10:31). The following are several other important reasons why a uniform is required at Heritage Christian School:

1. To dispense with competition due to outward appearance and affluence
2. To de-emphasize outward appearance and, in its place, stress the need for inner beauty and character development
3. To limit the distractions and focus on learning
4. To enhance school spirit
5. To allow students to demonstrate a submission to authorities placed over them

Popular culture mandates that we bow to fashion. It insists that we keep up with rapidly changing trends. At Heritage Christian School, we are training students to think differently about dress. By wearing a simple uniform, students step out of popular culture and into a world of serious learning. With limited outward distinctions, students identify with the student body and respect one another for who they are in Christ. We encourage students to seek their individuality by using and expressing the gifts God has given them according to His grace: serving, teaching, exhortation, generosity, zeal, cheerfulness, etc. (Romans 12:4-8).

The cooperation of the student and the parent is necessary in maintaining the standards of the uniform dress code. Adherence to the Uniform Dress Code is a family responsibility. **Parents shall assume this important responsibility and leave the school free to focus on its primary goal – building Godly character and academic competence.** Complaints about dress code violations, whether from staff, students, or other parents should be reported to the office. All reported complaints will be recorded and an accumulation of three reported infractions will result in a hearing before the Board. Multiple reports on the same day for the same violation will only count as one infraction, unless the student has been asked to remove an unacceptable garment or accessory and chooses to continue wearing it.

General Guidelines

CAMPUS WEAR / SCHOOL EVENTS

Uniforms must always be worn unless otherwise specified. No brand name (unless board approved) is to appear anywhere on any article of uniform clothing (Dickies brand cargo shorts have been approved by the board.) As all uniforms look alike, parents are strongly encouraged to mark all items with your child's name. Students may wear blue/black jeans or navy, gray, black, hunter or burgundy athletic pants (no shorts) and a Heritage or Christian-themed t-shirt or hoodie for Spirit Days and non-academic school events, on or off campus. This includes athletic events.

Fit is important for comfort as well as modesty (not too loose/baggy or tight/clingy). No yoga pants are allowed. All uniform items must be in the original style and condition. Any clothing items, uniform or otherwise, must not be ripped, torn, discolored or un-hemmed, even if clothing was purchased in that condition.

Pants and shorts must be worn at waistline and not pushed down around the hip area. Underwear cannot be showing. Black or brown belts may be worn. Young students (Pre K – 2nd grade) are allowed to wear pants/shorts with fully elasticized waistbands.

Shirts may be worn tucked in or the shirt may be left out if it is not oversized and does not hang past the student's wrist/palm area. Shirts should always be worn with the collars down. All uniform shirts, polos or button-ups, must have a Heritage logo. *One navy blue polo is required for special events.* The others may be white, burgundy, hunter green, or navy. Shirts with logos may be purchased from T-Shirts Etc., Land's End, or Class Act. Navy blue logo shirts are to be worn on all field trips.

Colors: Pants/shorts/skirts/skorters/jumpers: Dark Navy, Dark or Putty Khaki (not Stone or Brown), or the White

Plaid from Land's End or Class Act
Tops: Dark Navy, Burgundy, White, Hunter Green

Retailers: Lands' End, Class Act, or other uniform providers

BODY ALTERATIONS / PIERCINGS

No piercings other than established policy pertaining to girls earrings. Boys may not wear earrings of any kind. Expansion/gauging devices for ear lobe, nasal, or other areas are not permitted. Cuttings are prohibited. Utilization of ink on a student's skin is prohibited to include pens/markers and both formal and informal tattoos. Students who have obtained such prior to attendance at HCS must keep them covered and agree to obtain no others during years of attendance.

FOOTWEAR

Footwear should complement the uniform (in school or neutral colors if possible) and be in good condition. They should not be a distraction. Students may not wear shoes without a back strap. Flip-flops/slides and/or beach/pool style shoes, crocs, and slippers are not acceptable uniform footwear. Heely's and other wheeled-type shoes are also not permitted. Heels are limited to max height of 2 inches. **Elementary students must wear socks. Secondary students may choose to wear socks. Socks must be a matching pair of the same color and size.**

A separate pair of tennis shoes is required to wear in the gym for PE. Secondary students must have gym shoes with tied laces. Younger elementary students may have Velcro fastenings on their shoes.

HAIRSTYLES, MAKE-UP AND JEWELRY

1. Students' hair should be clean and neatly styled. Boys' hair should be trimmed and off the ears, eyebrows, and collar. If hair does not lie flat, it must be cut within 3" (three inches) of the contour of the head. Mohawks or other similar styles, haircuts with designs cut into them, and unnatural hair colors are not permitted.
2. All boys must keep sideburns neatly trimmed, and they can be no longer than the bottom of the ear opening. Facial hair is not permitted.
3. Girls may wear no more than two sets of pierced earrings; **Earrings must be in the earlobe or outer cartilage, not in the tragus** (the small cartilaginous flap that extends over the auditory canal); no other pierced jewelry may be worn by any student. Boys may not wear earrings.
4. Jewelry should be worn with moderation and not be a distraction. Jewelry may not contain non-Christian symbols (determined by the teachers/principal). Jewelry may not be worn during PE classes or while participating in sports.
5. Girls in grades seven and up may wear conservative make-up (light colors, lightly applied.)
6. Girls may wear nail polish that is in good taste and appropriate for school. No black nail polish or polish that appears black should be worn. Boys are not allowed to wear make-up or nail polish.
7. Girls may wear hair accessories (ribbons, headbands, etc.) that complement their uniforms. Boys may not wear hair accessories of any kind (including hair ties or headbands.)

PERSONAL HYGIENE

Appropriate personal hygiene is expected of all students. Students should bathe daily and start each day in clean clothing. Students in fifth through twelfth grade are strongly encouraged to wear deodorant.

SWEATSHIRTS, SWEATERS, AND JACKETS

V-neck drifter sweater vests or cardigan sweaters in dark burgundy, dark navy, or dark hunter green may be worn. These are available from Land's End or Class Act only. HCS crew-necked sweatshirts are available through Land's End or the school office. HCS Hoodies are only available through the school office, Class Act, or Land's End. Only Heritage sweatshirts and hoodies may be worn in the building. Jackets may be worn in the classroom if they are a solid school uniform color embroidered with the school logo. No other jackets may be worn in the building. All sweatshirts, sweaters and jackets must be worn with a uniform separate underneath which should not hang longer than the outer garment.

SPORTS SWEATSHIRTS

Individual team sports may design and sell HCS sweatshirts (approved by administration or uniform committee). These can be worn by fans and students. Students are allowed to wear the HCS sports hoodie to school as they would the HCS uniform hoodie.

For Boys Only

PANTS & SHORTS

Pants and shorts must be navy or khaki with straight legs. They may be front pleated or have a flat-front. Front pockets should be traditional style or front pocket tab, with no accessory zippers, flaps, or Velcro. Back pockets must be slash or buttonhole style. Shorts must not hang below the kneecap. Uniform cargo shorts may be worn if cargo pockets lay flat against the leg.

SHIRTS

Acceptable shirts: Plain collar white, dark navy, dark burgundy, or dark hunter green mesh or interlock polo shirts (short or long-sleeved), turtlenecks, or mock-turtlenecks with no decorative additions other than the HCS logo, plain collar white short- or long-sleeved oxford cloth button-down shirts with no decorative additions other than HCS logo. Any undershirt that is worn underneath a uniform shirt must be school or neutral colors (white, dark navy, burgundy, hunter green, gray or black) and must be tucked in. Land's End or T-Shirts Etc. can embroider the HCS logo on any of the above-mentioned shirts for a small additional cost. All students should have one navy polo for special events.

BELTS

Black or brown belts are acceptable but not required unless pants or shorts will not stay at the waistline. Underwear may not be showing.

ACCESORIES

Elementary students must wear socks and they must be a matching pair. Secondary students who wear socks must wear a matching pair. Boys may wear ties of dark navy, dark burgundy, hunter green or uniform plaid with white button-down oxford shirts. Boys may not wear hair accessories of any kind. **Students may not wear accessories or jewelry during PE classes or while participating in sports.**

For Girls Only

PANTS, SHORTS & CAPRIS

Uniform pants, walking shorts and capris must be khaki or navy with front pleats or flat-front and straight legs. Shorts should be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee and should not be below the kneecap. Front pockets should be traditional style or front pocket tab, with no accessory zippers, flaps, Velcro. Any back pockets should be slash-style with button.

SKIRTS & SKORTS

A-Line or pleated styles are only allowed as uniform separates as long as they meet proper length requirement of no shorter than the top of the knee. When ordering from Land's End or Class Act, order "At the Knee" or "Below the Knee" as "Above the Knee" is mid-thigh and therefore will be too short. No cargo-style or accessory buckles/zippers across the front of the skirt/skort allowed. Heritage plaid, khaki, and navy skirts and skorts are only available through Land's End and Class Act.

JUMPERS

Jumpers are available through Land's End or Class Act only and must have the Heritage logo. Jumpers also should be no shorter than the top of the knee and may be khaki, navy, or plaid.

SHIRTS

Acceptable shirts: Plain collar white, dark navy, dark burgundy, or dark hunter green mesh or interlock polo shirts (short or long-sleeved), turtlenecks, or mock-turtlenecks with no decorative additions other than the HCS logo; plain collar white short- or long-sleeved oxford cloth button-down shirts with no decorative additions other than HCS logo; long or short-sleeved solid white Peter Pan blouse; any undershirt that is worn underneath a uniform shirt must be school or neutral colors (white, dark navy, burgundy, hunter green, gray or black) and must be tucked in. Class Act, Land's End, or T-Shirts Etc. can embroider the HCS logo on any of the above-mentioned shirts for a small additional cost.

BELTS

Black or brown belts are acceptable but not required unless pants or shorts will not stay at the waistline. Underwear may not be showing.

ACCESSORIES

Elementary students must wear socks and they must be a matching pair. Secondary students may choose to wear socks if they are a matching pair. Girls may also choose to wear leggings that are plain and of neutral or uniform color. Heritage plaid cross ties and other matching Heritage plaid accessories are acceptable to wear with white, button-down oxford shirts; **all other accessories (hair ties, earrings, etc.) should be of neutral or uniform color. No accessories or jewelry may be worn during PE classes or while participating in sports.**

Extra-Curricular Dress Code

ALL SCHOOL EVENTS, ON AND OFF CAMPUS

Students participating in or attending an HCS event must abide by the following dress code when not in uniform. Students should wear approved sports clothing or blue or black jeans or navy, gray, black, hunter or burgundy athletic pants and a Heritage or Christian-themed t-shirt or hoodie when on school property or at informal school events (this includes off-campus events.)

Clothing must be in good condition and free of tears, rips, and discoloration. They must also fit comfortably and not be excessively tight.

GAME DAYS & ATHLETIC PRACTICES

Student athletes must wear their PE uniform shorts or athletic pants to sports practices. Shorts may not be rolled up to a shorter length. All HCS athletes are expected to follow the rules for modesty while at practice just as at any other school event. T-shirts may **not** be cut, ripped or have inappropriate pictures, words, or logos. Tank style tops are not permitted unless they are school-supplied practice uniforms or jerseys. On game days athletes may wear their gray long-sleeved sports shirts* with blue or black jeans, navy, gray, black, hunter green or burgundy athletic pants (no shorts.) *Sports shirts may be purchased through the Athletic Director at the beginning of each school year.

SPIRIT DAYS & FIELD TRIPS

Spirit Days are on Fridays only. If the school week ends before Friday, there will be no Spirit Day that week. Students must pay \$1 for the privilege of participating, which will be allocated to the school missions' fund.

Students not participating must wear their school uniforms. Participating students may wear a Heritage or Christian-themed t-shirt or sweatshirt with blue or black jeans or navy, gray, black, hunter green or burgundy athletic pants (no shorts except uniform shorts).

Students must wear their navy blue polo shirts with the HCS logo on field trips with uniform bottoms (or jeans, upon approval from the administration).

HIGH SCHOOL FORMAL & MIDDLE SCHOOL ETIQUETTE DINNER

H Modesty is a priority for our young ladies. Dresses **should not display cleavage or a bare back.** Students may not wear dresses without straps or halter tops without a jacket or attached shawl. Students must have at least a **2 inch strap neckline** on dresses and tops if a jacket or cover-up is not worn.

Dresses should be no lower than two-and-a half inches from the collarbone and the back should be no lower than five inches down from the round bone at the base of the neck. Clothing that is sheer, tight, or revealing in any way must not be worn. Sleeves may not be off the shoulders or halter-style. The dress or skirt must reach the top of the knee and any slits must be sewn to the top of the knee. Dresses must be approved by administration at least a week in advance of the event (including dresses of students who do not attend HCS). Tickets to the event will not be given to students until the dress has been checked.

All young men must wear a dress shirt, a tie, and dress slacks. A jacket is also required for the High School Formal. Black or brown dress shoes and dress socks are required as well. No jeans, athletic shoes, or flip flops may be worn.

The administrator or an appointee will make final decisions on questionable attire. The student may be required to change his attire or obtain appropriate attire before he is allowed to attend the event.

Graduation and Promotion Guidelines

HCS seeks to bring together the celebratory and formal aspects of these rites of passage in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord. We expect students to meet the dress guidelines below. If a student wears inappropriate attire, the attire must be corrected according to school policy before the student is allowed to participate in the ceremony.

YOUNG LADIES

Y All young ladies must wear a nice dress or skirt or slacks and top. We ask that the neckline of dresses and tops be no lower than two-and-a half inches from the collarbone and that the back be no lower than five inches down from the round bone at the base of the neck. Clothing that is sheer, tight, or revealing in any way must not be worn. Sleeves may not be off the shoulders or halter-style. Dresses and tops must have sleeves or straps that are at least two inches in width, and should not “cut in” from the edge of the arm. The dress or skirt must reach the top of the knee and any slits must be sewn to the top of the knee. Girls must wear dress shoes or sandals, but no athletic shoes or flip flops. Dresses must be approved by administration at least a week in advance of the event.

The administrator or an appointee will make final decisions on questionable attire.

YOUNG MEN

Y All young men must wear a dress shirt, a tie, and dress slacks. Black or brown dress shoes and dress socks are required as well. No jeans, athletic shoes, or flip flops may be worn.