

DECATUR CHRISTIAN SCHOOL- DRESS STANDARDS

General Dress Code Guidelines for All Students DCS students honor themselves and our school by honoring the dress code. The purpose of this or any dress code is to set guidelines for acceptable dress so that the code is easily understood, remembered, and enforceable. Representatives of the school have final say with respect to compliance. When students are not in dress code, the responsibility of achieving compliance will be upon the student. As soon as they can correct the infraction, they may return to class. Repeated infractions can lead to disciplinary action. As always, if a student is in doubt about a particular item, they should check with administration before risking being out of compliance. Student's dress and appearance will be the responsibility of the individual and parents or guardians, within the following guidelines:

DCS Dress Code

1. Students' dress and appearance are required to be of such character as to not disrupt nor distract from the instructional procedures of the school day.
2. Clothing that promotes drugs, alcohol, tobacco, violence, is sexually suggestive, or displays inappropriate pictures or writing, displays political or controversial or divisive messages is prohibited.
3. Clothing (tops and bottoms) must be neat, well-maintained, without frays or holes, not distressed and correctly fitted. Clothing must cover undergarments, upper and lower (midriff) torso, back, waist, and chest. No see-through apparel. Pajamas are not acceptable except on specifically designated occasions (by administrative approval).
4. Necklines should be no lower than 1" below the collarbone and should stay in place with movement as a point of modesty. This includes V-neck shirts that would extend lower than 1" below the collarbone.
5. Hoodies, camo, jackets or coats are not permitted while in the building. Jackets and coats, etc. must be kept in the student's locker upon arrival to school and not carried with the student.
6. Tops that can be worn at DCS:
 - a. Elementary students (K-5) are permitted to wear sleeveless shirts (not form fitting, no spaghetti straps, no crop tops, no tube tops), but secondary students must have sleeves that cover shoulders.
 - b. For secondary, tops with no graphics or wording other than DCS approved Spirit Wear. With the exception of hooded clothing or jackets in the classrooms, students are welcome to wear official DCS Spirit Wear every day at Decatur Christian School.
 - c. Optionally for secondary students, tops with trademarks, brand logos, etc. must have images no larger than 2 inches.

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7. Bottoms that can be worn at DCS:

- a. For elementary students (K-5), shorts/skirts/dresses hemline must reach the end of the fingertips when hands hang naturally at student's side while standing. If elementary students choose to wear a dress or skirt, shorts or leggings must be worn under the dress Decatur Christian School Handbook 2022-2023 53 or skirt. For secondary students, shorts and skirts must be no more than 3" above the knee.
- b. Elementary students (K-5) are permitted to wear leggings. Leggings or form fitting pants (jeggings) are not permitted in secondary grades.
- c. Pants should fit properly—not baggy and not skin tight—and should be worn at the waist at all times.
- d. Jeans, khakis, slacks, cargo shorts, dress shorts - neat, well-maintained, without frays or holes, solid, or patterned, not distressed and correctly fitted. No sweatpants or athletic shorts. For secondary students, shorts and skirts must be no more than 3" above the knee when standing.

8. Footwear must be worn at all times appropriate to the school activity/situation. All footwear must have a heel-strap or back to keep the footwear on the foot.

9. Hair must be neat and clean at all times, and worn out of the eyes at all times. Young men must be clean shaven. Eccentric styles or unnatural colors are unacceptable.

10. Make-up for young women should be modest and not distracting to learning. Visibly displayed body piercings (other than ears), tattoos, hats, or sunglasses are unacceptable.

11. Class activities that present a concern for student safety may require the student to adjust hair, jewelry, and/or clothing during the class period in the interest of maintaining safety standards.

12. Additional dress guidelines may be imposed upon students participating in PE and certain extracurricular activities. On game days, for example, the coach may request their athletes to wear team attire or other coach directed attire.

13. As stated above, when students are not in dress code, the responsibility of achieving compliance will be upon the student. As soon as they can correct the infraction, they may return to class. Repeated infractions can lead to disciplinary action.

14. Final decisions regarding "appropriateness" of dress will be determined by administration. Spirit Wear with the exception of hooded clothing or jackets in the classrooms, students are welcome to wear official DCS Spirit Wear every day at Decatur Christian School. PE uniforms and athletic warm ups are not spirit wear, and spirit wear is not a PE uniform nor athletic warm up. During the school day, hooded clothing and jackets must remain in lockers. Please plan seasonally to be able to keep warm in the classrooms and remain in compliance with dress code. Each Friday will be designated as a Spirit Wear Day to promote school spirit.

PE Uniforms

All 6th – 12th PE students must dress for PE in an official DCS PE uniform. For health and safety, athletic shoes must be worn at all times. Students must change back to regular dress code before returning to class and may not wear PE clothes in other class hours. DCS PE Uniforms may be purchased at registration or through the school office. Cold weather provisions will be addressed as cold weather approaches.