

SOUTHWEST COVENANT SCHOOL

SECONDARY DRESS CODE



“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27).

“The word *conversation* includes the whole course of our life and behavior in the world. The Greek word signifies the actions and the privileges of citizenship. Thus, we are commanded to let our actions, as citizens of the New Jerusalem, give glory to the gospel of Christ. *The gospel is very simple.* There should be a simplicity about our manner, our speech, our dress, and our whole behavior. This is the very soul of beauty.”

Charles H. Spurgeon

SWCS Dress Code Guidelines

Our philosophy of dress is based on the premise that our school is both a training center for future job placement and a source of reinforcement for the values espoused in a Christian home environment. A sensitivity to and awareness of appropriate dress is an important aspect of any individual's social and spiritual maturity. At Southwest Covenant School, we desire to help students use Biblical principles as their standard for evaluating appropriate dress for school. The following verses are a few that are helpful in establishing personal as well as school dress code guidelines.

"Even in your youthfulness, be a great example of those around you in your speech, conduct, love, faith and purity." (I Timothy 4:12). Do not live (or dress) in a way that others look down at you and lose respect for your Christian testimony.

"...Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (I Samuel 16:7). Let your focus be the attitude of your heart, not over-attention to your clothes or appearance.

"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." (I Peter 3:3-4). God desires for us to place more emphasis on maturing the inner person than on decorating the outside.

"A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this." (Deuteronomy 22:5). God does not condone the unisex look. Instead, He desires it to be obvious from our appearance that men are men and women are women.

"I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety..." (I Timothy 2:9) and *"Do not cause anyone to stumble..."* (I Corinthians 10:32). All of us, but especially females, should dress with modesty and decency so that we do not draw another person into sin by the way we dress.

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (I Corinthians 10:31). Our desire should be to glorify God in the way we dress.

Specific Dress Code Guidelines for the Secondary School

- I. All SWCS students in grades 6-12 will observe the following dress/appearance code. Any questions regarding specific attire should be directed to the Principal and/or Academic Services Coordinator prior to wearing the clothes to school. This code is given in order to provide some guidelines for acceptable and modest dress and appearance. With changing fashion, it is impossible to print a complete list of acceptable or unacceptable dress; therefore, students should understand the intent of these guidelines and respond appropriately when a question arises. **THE PRINCIPAL WILL BE THE FINAL WORD ON THE APPROPRIATENESS OF DRESS.** When in doubt, ask first! **Enrollment at SWCS indicates a willingness by the student and parents to abide by the letter and spirit of the dress code.** *“Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.” (Romans 13:5)*
- II. The Principal and/or the Academic Services Coordinator will be responsible for determining if a students’ attire does not meet school guidelines. Teachers will be responsible for monitoring student apparel by asking the student to leave class and report to the office with a dress code issue. This procedure will give priority time to teaching, improve consistency in applying guidelines, and help students deal with possible violations in a more discreet manner.
- III. If a student is not dressed according to dress code, the school office will contact the parents to take corrective action by immediately bringing the appropriate clothes to school. If a parent cannot be reached, the student may borrow appropriate clothes from a friend or from the school supplies articles in the “Good Will Box.” At the discretion of Administration, any student deemed “out of dress code” will be denied admittance to class until the violation is corrected. Time missed from class as a result of a dress code violation will be considered unexcused. Additional consequences of dress code violations are as follows:
 - 3rd offense - Student will receive a detention.
 - 4th offense - Student will receive a half-day in-school suspension.
 - 5th offense - Student will receive a full day in-school suspension.Repeated offenses will result in a conference with the principal and further disciplinary action. A continued demonstration of unwillingness to abide by the school guidelines may be grounds for expulsion or disqualification for re-admission to SWCS.
- IV. The following dress code will be observed by all SWCS students at school as well as at all school functions. The intent is that students will be neat, clean, modest and positive representatives of SWCS at all times.

A. Girls

1. Clothing that is threadbare, dirty, ripped, has holes, fits extremely large and is sloppy, is see-through, exposes a bare midriff or bare back, is low cut, tight fitting, or is considered immodest in any way is unacceptable. Decorative patches or frays are permissible. Frays are not permitted on shorts.
2. Dresses, skirts, and split skirts, and slits in skirts must be of modest length (not more than 2" above the top of the kneecap).
3. All Shirts are to be neatly hemmed and may be worn tucked or not tucked. All shirts must be modest and provide sufficient coverage to allow freedom of movement.
 - Non-tucked shirts must be long enough to allow movement without revealing any skin at the midriff or waist. Short tops may only be worn non-tucked if layered over another fully tucked in shirt.
 - Sleeveless blouses, shirts, or dresses must be a least 2" wide at the narrowest part and must fully cover undergarments. (NOTHING should show around the armholes, neckline, or back).
4. Slacks, capris, wind suit pants, and neatly hemmed blue jeans are permissible. Fleece sweat pants, tear away athletic pants, flannel pants and pajama pants may NOT be worn. "Jeggings"/leggings are not permissible as pants. Jeggings and leggings are permissible with dress or top that meets dress code (2" from top of knee). If pants fit tightly from waist to knee, a top must cover the seat area.
5. Modest shorts (not more than 2" above the top of the kneecap) are permissible. No biker shorts, "soccer style" gym shorts, athletic style shorts, or non-hemmed shorts may be worn. Students are to use discretion and wear sensible clothing in colder weather. Students failing to use common sense will be sent home for appropriate clothing.
6. Pants or shorts with words printed across the seat area (including letters, slogans, team names, brand names, and logos, etc.) may not be worn.
7. Shoes must be worn at all times. Flip-flops and athletic style shoes may not be worn on dress-up days.
8. Shorts worn for athletic practice and events may be no shorter than 2" above the top of the kneecap.
9. Tattoos and body piercing are not permitted. (Girls may wear earrings.)

Note: SWCS students will face disciplinary action if they get a tattoo or other body modification. The discipline will result in a loss of some or all extracurricular activity privileges and could result in suspension or expulsion. (See Handbook VI.E.12)

Any existing tattoos must be covered at all times in every public setting relating to Southwest Covenant (including social media) and will be addressed on an individual basis.

10. No caps or hats should be worn except on specified days.
11. Anything contrary to our Christian standards and any apparel or accessories the headmaster or principal determine are incompatible with a Biblical worldview will not be permitted. (Remember, “if in doubt, don’t;” or at least check first!)

B. Boys

1. Clothing that is threadbare, dirty, ripped, has holes or patches, is frayed, fits extremely large and is sloppy, is gang related (i.e., “ragheads,” chains, etc), can be seen-through, exposes a bare midriff or bare back, or is tight fitting is unacceptable.
2. All shirts are to be neat, hemmed, and may be worn tucked or not tucked.
3. Slacks, wind suit pants, and neatly hemmed blue jeans are permitted. Fleece sweat pants, tear away athletic pants, flannel pants and pajama pants may NOT be worn. Large, baggy, or sagging pants that fit below the waistline are not permitted.
4. Modest shorts (not more than 2” above the top of the kneecap) are permissible. No biker shorts, “soccer style” gym shorts, athletic style shorts, or non-hemmed shorts may be worn. Students are to use discretion and wear sensible clothing in colder weather. Students failing to use common sense will be sent home for appropriate clothing.
5. Pants or shorts with words printed across the seat area (including letters, slogans, team names, brand names, and logos, etc.) may not be worn.
6. Shoes must be worn at all times.
7. Hair must be well groomed, clean, and kept trimmed above the shirt collar, above the eyebrows, and no longer than mid-ear (no “tails,” ponytails, etc. or gang related design). Facial hair, if worn, must be neatly trimmed.
8. Shorts worn for athletic practice and events may be no shorter than 2” above the top of the kneecap.
9. Tattoos, earrings, or any kind of body piercing is considered inappropriate and will not be allowed.

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C. Additional Guidelines

Certain symbols are considered to be inconsistent with and incompatible to the philosophy of SWCS. Therefore requirements regarding apparel with symbols, pictures, slogans, etc., must conform to the following guidelines:

Permissible:

Southwest Covenant School	Geographic locations
Christian themes	Sport themes
Colleges and universities	Numbers
Personal monograms	Animals

Not Permissible:

Eskimo Joe clothing or other brands typifying a bar atmosphere
Advertisements of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products
Philosophies or religious beliefs, i.e., signs of the zodiac, peace symbols, etc.
Any reference to a band or music group of any genre

Inappropriate words, vulgar connotations, underlying messages, or anything inconsistent with the Christian philosophy of SWCS. This list is not exhaustive, but serves as an example of what is not permissible. The principal has the final authority.

D. Dress-up Day

Every Wednesday is dress-up day. As scheduling permits, Chapel services will also be on this day.

1. Girls must wear a dress or skirt ensemble and dress shoes (no flip-flops or athletic shoes).
2. Boys are to wear dress slacks with a belt, dress shirt and tie, socks, and dress shoes with socks. Dress shirts are to be worn tucked in, with the collar buttoned and tie cinched.

E. Activity Dress

There are certain days or activities that will warrant a neater dress code than our normal dress code requires. The following guidelines are to be followed on days that are deemed "Activity Dress":

Boys: Slacks, belts, collared shirt, and dress shoes with socks. Shirt must be kept tucked in throughout the day.

Girls: Slacks are permitted. Dress shoes (no flip-flops or athletic shoes)

F. Athletic dress (uniforms for games and practices):

The head coach and athletic director with administrative approval will set the dress code policy/standard for practice and games for each specific team.

**Dress Guidelines for SWCS Junior/Senior Banquet
(For Students, Faculty, Parents, and Guests)**

This is a special event, and our desire is that we be found pleasing in the sight of God in all that we wear, do, and say. The Junior/Senior Banquet is considered a formal occasion for the students. However, students should not feel obligated to purchase or rent formal attire for the evening. Students, faculty, and senior parents wearing their “Sunday best” or “wedding” clothes should feel properly attired. Some specific guidelines are listed below:

Gentlemen:

- A suit or sport coat and dress slacks must be worn. (No retro styles.)
- A dress shirt, appropriate dress tie, socks, and dress shoes must be worn.

Ladies:

- Skirts or slits in skirts may not be shorter than 2” above the top of the kneecap.
- Sleeveless blouses or dresses must be at least 1” wide at the narrowest part. The armhole should fit the arm so that undergarments are not revealed
- The front or neckline of the dress should be modest and show no cleavage.
- The back of the dress should not be lower than the middle of the back and cut no wider than the outside of the shoulder.
- The dress should be loose enough to be comfortable while seated and not so form fitting as to call undue attention to physical features.
- Transparent fabrics may be used for sleeves but must be fully lined on the body of the dress.
- The Academic Services Coordinator will schedule dress reviews for all junior and senior girls. All female students must have their dresses approved prior to the banquet.