

FOURTH BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DRESS CODE 2017-18

Fourth Baptist Christian School desires that its students dress and conduct themselves in a manner that is pleasing to God. We believe that a student's dress and physical appearance are very important in their personal testimony before others. We are not interested in lowering our dress standard, but raising it so that our school environment sets a higher standard for learning and for the sake of our testimony. If we were to sum up our dress code, it would be that we are seeking to teach our students to dress in a **business casual** style of dress that promotes learning and minimizes distractions. **Please make sure you read this dress code carefully before going "back to school" shopping.**

Modesty is the prevailing principle as well as common sense and neatness.

Students and parents are expected to select clothing **that maintains a high standard** to help ensure we have a learning environment which promotes the following four categories:

1. **Modesty** – Is my dress modest, chaste, decent and observing Biblical proprieties?
2. **Testimony** – Does my appearance honor the Lord? Does my appearance point others to Christ and not to me?
3. **Appropriateness** – Is my appearance enhancing the learning environment?
4. **Deference** – Is my appearance such that demonstrates I am willing to restrict my personal tastes/rights for the sake of the larger group and our school's testimony?

Choosing to attend FBCS implies an agreement between the school and the student's family. That agreement means that parents and students abide by the standards of dress set forth by the school. Good grooming and a clean, neat appearance is what we are looking for in our students' dress.

If parents or students are unsure of an article of clothing, please bring that article of clothing in to the school office so that we can see it before the student wears it to school. Our secretaries will let you know if it can be worn at school. Should a student arrive at school in violation of the dress code, he or she will report to the school office and remain there until proper attire is secured. The school maintains a collection of dress code items to help students change into proper apparel. When necessary, parents will be called to bring in appropriate clothing so that the student may return to class. All class periods missed for this reason are considered unexcused. Repeated disregard for the dress standard is cause for further disciplinary action.

In the case of a pre-announced "dress down day" – commonly referred to as "**Blue Jeans and Warrior Spirit T-shirt Day**" – nice, loose-fitting blue jeans may be worn (without distressing or holes, not frayed, NOT tight or form-fitting – NO jeggings) may be worn with any FBCS T-shirt. This is also what we ask our students to wear to home or away games. Student spectators are not to wear shorts to athletic events regardless of the season or location of the event. Team members are to change into warm-up pants after their game.

P.E. Class and Sports Practice Attire: Students in P.E. or sports team practices are to wear appropriate **T-shirts** – *NOT sleeveless or tank tops* – and **LONG shorts** – *near the knee, NOT mid-thigh* – for all sports practices. Students not complying will be required to change into something appropriate. Loose-fitting athletic pants/sweatpants are also acceptable for sports practices.

Athletic Games and Tournaments: Students may wear nice jeans or loose fitting athletic pants to games. NO shorts or leggings. Only athletes participating in the games may wear shorts and must change into their warm-up pants when their game has finished.

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Special school events: Students are expected to dress appropriately for programs and activities taking place during the course of the school year. **School attire is the minimum standard on such occasions.** This includes all MACS events, History/Science Fairs and School Plays, even if the student is attending only as a spectator at the event.

MACS Events: MACS Speech or Fine Arts Festivals or other such events may require students to attend in a higher standard of dress than the daily school attire. If that is the case, notification will be given to the parents and students.

Music Events: Specific dress guidelines are given to parents and students prior to **concerts** and other **music events** (ministry days, choir tours, etc). Students are to dress according to those guidelines. SH Music students are issued a music outfit that is their responsibility to wear for SH music events. The outfit will be returned to the school at the end of the school year.

Volunteer Helpers & Parents: Adults are asked to honor the student dress standards for the event when helping in the classroom, the library, with hot lunch, on field trips or at school functions that occur during the regular school hours.

General Dress Code Reminders:

1. **If an article of clothing needs repeated attention**—pulling down, pulling up, readjusting—to meet dress code guidelines, then that item is NOT in dress code.
2. **Please enter and leave school in dress code** unless you are leaving directly from a last period P.E. class or sports practice. P.E. and sports practice attire must be modest, and **boys' and girls' shorts must be near the knee.** (*See P.E. Class and Sports Practice Attire on previous page*).
3. **Outdoor winter coats and jackets should not be worn in class.** If a student is cold, a neat sweater, a **plain** light micro fleece jacket, track jacket, or sweatshirt may be worn **over a dress code shirt.** (*See following pages for Dress Code specifics*).

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BOYS DRESS CODE: Our dress code is a “business casual” standard of dress.
(See *Elementary Notes for Exceptions*).

PANTS:

- **SOLID COLOR chino style** twill, corduroy, conservative cargo, or dress pants. NO plaids or camouflage.
- **NO elastic at the ankles.**
- Pants must fit properly, without being either too tight or too loose. No skinny cut pants.
- Pants are to be worn at the waist. If the pants are too loose to stay up, a belt must be worn.
- NO frayed/torn pants, ripped knees, excessively long or baggy pants, athletic/wind/sweat or drawstring pants. Pants must be clean and in good condition/repair when a student arrives at school.
- **NO JEANS or DENIM pants for Grades 7 - 12**, except on designated “Jeans Days.’

Elementary Note: Gr. K - 6—Elementary boys may wear colored denim pants (black, brown, gray, green -- not blue jeans) because we know that boys are especially hard on their pants in the gym and on the playground.

SHIRTS:

- **COLLARED SHIRT REQUIRED**—Acceptable shirts are: polo’s, rugby’s, turtlenecks, and button-up dress shirts.
- **ONLY 2 BUTTONS** may be unbuttoned.
- **TUCKED IN** – Any shirt with a rounded hem must be worn tucked in. Polo shirts and other shirts that are square-cut along the bottom may be worn untucked if the shirt does not fall below the hips.
- **NO LOGOS**—brand/manufacturer/sports team logos or otherwise—(except a SMALL manufacturer’s logo or an FBCS logo). No numbers, symbols or advertisements.
- **NO WORDING** across the front, back or down the sleeves will be allowed, EXCEPT on a Warrior spirit shirt or an FBCS team shirt. Team members may wear an FBCS warm-up shirt on game days.

Elementary Note: Gr. K – 6 Boys may wear a collared or a nice non-collared shirt (Henley, short or long-sleeved t-shirt), as long as it is not just an “undershirt.”

Elementary Note: K4 & K5 boys’ shirts may have numbers/pictures on the front. (Dinosaurs/animals, trucks, sports, etc.) as long as they are not deemed inappropriate for our Christian school standard. NO skulls.

SWEATERS/JACKETS/HOODIES:

- **SWEATER/FLEECE/JACKET:** Our building can be cold at times. A plain/neat sweater/cardigan, track jacket, or plain micro-fleece jacket—may be worn OVER a dress code shirt if a student is cold.
NO LOGOS - brand/manufacturer/Sports team logos or otherwise—(except a SMALL manufacturer’s logo or an FBCS WARRIOR logo). No numbers, symbols or business advertisements.
- **HOODIES** - NO hoodies of any kind may be worn **in school**, except on the playground.
Nice hoodies may be worn at athletic games.

SHOES:

- Traditional athletic (tennis), casual and dress shoes - laced and tied securely.
- Socks are required.
- NO athletic/beach-type slides or flip-flops.
- NO crocs.

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JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES:

- Watches and rings ONLY at school
- NO necklaces or bracelets of any kind.
- NO body piercings or tattoos.
- NO hats, bandanas, visors, sunglasses.

HAIR:

- Off the ears, eyebrows, and collar -- NOT bushy
- NO unnatural hair color or designs cut into hair
- Clean shaven, sideburns no longer than the middle of the earlobe

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GIRLS DRESS CODE: Our dress code is a “business casual” standard of dress.
(See *Elementary Notes for Exceptions*).

TOPS/SHIRTS/BLOUSES:

- **FABRICS:** See-thru fabrics may not be worn UNLESS a top that meets dress code on its own merit is worn underneath the see-thru item. This includes any type of sheer item that undergarments or skin can be seen through, i.e. chiffon, lace, a loosely crocheted weave, etc. This also applies to shrugs, sweaters/cardigans and cover-ups. Dresses and outfits worn for concerts must also meet this standard.
- **NECKLINE:** Front AND back no lower than **3 finger widths** (in the front—place index finger on collar bone; in the back—place index finger at base of neck). Necklines should stay high regardless of student posture—leaning over a desk/table or bending down at a locker, etc. (Girls are encouraged to check their necklines in front of a mirror at home in various postures to be sure their shirt’s neckline stays modest.) NO cleavage/valley or undergarment/camisole straps may be visible at any time. *Note: Scarves are an accessory, not to be used to try to camouflage an item not meeting dress code.*
- **CAMISOLES:** Camisoles may be worn to help a shirt meet dress code. Camisoles may need to be pinned up to stay in place and that should be done at home **before** the student comes to school.
- **UNDERGARMENTS:** Proper undergarments must be worn by young ladies such that they are not visible under clothing. No straps should be showing at any time. (No dark undergarments under light fabrics).
- **IMAGES/SCREENPRINTING/PATTERNS:** Tops in a printed fabric or all-over screen-printing/embroidery of flowers or butterflies, etc. that **look dressy** are acceptable as long as they don’t include words.
 - **NO LOGOS**—except a SMALL manufacturer’s logo or FBCS logo.
 - **NO WORDING** across the front, back or down the sleeves will be allowed, except on a Warrior spirit shirt or Warrior team shirt. An FBCS team warm-up shirt may be worn on game days.
 - **NO LARGE PICTURES/SYMBOLS/CARTOONS** on the shirt (i.e. a large heart, peace symbol, emoji or smiley face, Disney character, animal, etc.). Those are not considered business casual.
- **SLEEVES:** At minimum—Cap sleeves/short sleeve or longer. NO sleeveless items. This includes dresses. No “cold shoulder” tops (Shirts with cut outs on the shoulders).
- **LENGTH:** Tops must be long enough that no midriff or back skin is exposed, regardless of student posture/position. Girls can choose to tuck or untuck their blouses, as long as a dressy look is maintained.

Elementary Note: *Elementary girls’ shirts may have cute pictures on the front as long as they are not deemed inappropriate for our Christian school standards. NO skulls or peace symbols. Elementary girls’ shirts should be long enough to cover her entire torso when both her arms are raised, as in during games in recess/P.E.*

PANTS: (THINK SCHOOL UNIFORM PANTS)

- **Loose-fitting, straight leg or boot-cut** plain chino style, corduroy, and dress pants (to the top of the ankle) is what we ask for our girl students. All pants/slacks must be business casual or dressy in style.
- **Pants must NOT be form-fitting or fit like leggings.** We ask that girls do not wear skinny cut pants (or jeans on jeans days). Even when purchased in a larger size so that they appear wrinkly, skinny cut pants do not meet our dress standard.
- **Capri’s are not allowed**, but chino style ankle pants, and pants to the top of the ankle are allowed.
- **NO elastic at the ankles.**
- **NO knit pants, leggings, or stretch pants** (includes all pants of a T-shirt-type knit fabric, legging fabric, Spandex, velvet, or velour.)
- **NO athletic/wind/yoga/sweat pants**, overalls or camouflage
- **NO printed fabric or plaid pants** of any type (twill, challis, etc.)
- **NO leather/leather-look, or vinyl**
- **NO jeans are to be worn** except on pre-announced “Jeans and Warrior Spirit T-Shirt” days. (*No jeggings*).

Elementary Note: *Girls in K4 – 6 may wear patterned twill and colored denim pants (not blue jeans).*

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SKIRTS/DRESSES:

- Gr. 4 – 12—Skirts/Dresses must cover the kneecap when standing AND sitting. Solid color nylons or tights may be worn underneath dresses/skirts, but **no leggings (except K4–6)**.
- Skirts are to be worn AT THE WAIST. If a skirt is not at minimum covering the kneecap when worn properly at the waist, that skirt does not meet dress code.
- NO pencil skirts, and NO tight/clingy fabrics. Skirts/dresses should not be form-fitting or tight. Be careful that skirts do not ride up on the thigh when the girl is seated.
- Slits are to be no higher than the top of the kneecap (sewn, not pinned).

Elementary Note: Gr. K4– 3: Skirts/Dresses are to be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee when standing.
Gr. 4 – 6: Skirts/Dresses must cover the kneecap when standing.
Elementary Girls in Grades K4– 6 are also encouraged to wear close-fitting playground shorts, knit pants or leggings **under their skirts** for recess/P.E. and playground modesty.

SWEATERS/JACKETS/HOODIES:

- **SWEATER/JACKET:** Our building can be cold at times. A neat sweater/cardigan, track jacket, team warm-up jacket, plain polar fleece/micro fleece jacket or pullover—may be worn OVER a top that meets dress code if a student is cold. (No large logos on the jacket/sweater).
- **HOODIES:** NO hoodies of any kind may be worn **in school**, except on the playground.
Nice hoodies may be worn at athletic games.

SHOES:

- Traditional casual, dress shoes, and sandals—laced and tied/buckled securely.
- Athletic (tennis) shoes are acceptable.
- Heels are NOT to be higher than 2 inches (measured at the BACK of the shoe or boot).
- Dress boots to the knee are acceptable, but must not be over 2” heel height. No over-the-knee boots. Pants may be worn tucked into boots.
- NO athletic/beach-type slides or flip-flops. NO Crocs.

JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES:

- Generally speaking, we ask for jewelry that is minimal, tasteful, and appropriate
- Earrings on the lobe only (no earrings up along the side/inside/top of the ear)
- NO other body piercings or tattoos
- NO hats, sunglasses, bandanas, visors, crazy headbands, etc.

HAIR/COSMETICS:

- Clean, neat, feminine appearance
- NO unnatural hair color
- Minimal/natural looking cosmetics

Elementary Note: NO cosmetics for girls in grades K-6th grades.