

8 DRESS CODE

8.1 BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE

Following the biblical principle that Christians should not let the world “squeeze them into its mold,” the dress code follows three main points: The dress must be honoring to God, be appropriate for the occasion, and be neat and clean (I John 2:15-16).

Berean’s desire is to honor God in all things, including the way students dress. Biblical principles, which guide in this desire, follow:

- A. The Christian is not to be fashioned or “conformed” outwardly or inwardly according to the world (Romans 12:1, I Peter 1:14).
- B. Students are to abstain from all appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22).
- C. Decency and modesty are to be followed in dress (I Timothy 2:9-10).
- D. The inward adorning of the heart is to be emphasized rather than the outward appearance (I Peter 3:3-4).
- E. Christians are not to love the standards the world sets in any area of life (I John 2:15-17).

The Bible clearly teaches submission to authority. Therefore, the school expects a willing spirit of cooperation from students and parents.

8.2 DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

Whenever there are biblical principles, people interpret them in a variety of ways. The following guidelines are to help the student understand how Berean interprets the above principles.

- A. Berean Academy believes clothing should be appropriate for the occasion. When students come to school, they are coming to work and learn and should be in the prescribed dress code during the school day.
- B. Berean Academy students should always wear clothes that are neat, clean, modest and free from damage.
- C. Please note that the administration reserves the right to make the final decision in any matter of judgment regarding dress code.

8.3 GIRLS’ DRESS CODE

8.3.1 K—6th Girls’ Dress Code

Elementary girls may wear slacks, capris (mid-calf length), jeans, dresses, or skirts during the school day. Shorts, split-skirts, sweatpants, camouflage, or exercise style pants should not be worn. Jeans or slacks should be free from large writing, “splattering” or

other distracting features. All clothing should be clean and free from holes, rips and frayed hems.

Dresses and skirts should be long and full. When skirts or dresses are worn, the hem must reach the top of the knee. Slits in longer skirts must meet the same guidelines. If the skirt length is at the top of the knee, a slit is inappropriate. At the elementary level, shorts should be worn under skirts or dresses to allow for modesty on the playground. Leggings are acceptable if a skirt or dress of appropriate length is worn over them.

Tops and dresses with sleeves shall be worn. The top must be long enough to cover the top of the skirt/pants if the arms are raised. Tops, T-shirts and athletic jerseys that are too long (mid-thigh) must be tucked in. Girls should not wear plain white T-shirts. Shirts without collars can be worn. Any design or writing on the shirt must be in good taste. The school administration reserves the right to make the final decision for each individual case.

On special occasions the students may be allowed to wear modest length shorts. Parents will be notified when those days occur. Otherwise, shorts are not to be worn.

Full shoes and secure sandals should be worn. For health and safety reasons, shoes without a heel strap are not appropriate. Shoes must be worn at all times in and out of the classroom.

Having the body pierced to wear jewelry, other than the ears, is unacceptable.

8.3.2 7th—12th Girls' Dress Code

Young ladies may wear modest slacks, capris (mid-calf length) or colored jeans but should not wear traditional blue jeans or leather-like material. Leggings or jeggings are not acceptable. Shorts, split-skirts, sweatpants, camouflage, or exercise/yoga style pants should not be worn. Clothing should be clean and free from holes, rips, and frayed hems. This includes the modern style of distressed jeans.

For young ladies, dresses and skirts may be worn; however, the hem must reach the top of the knee. Slits in longer skirts must meet the same guidelines. If the skirt length is at the top of the knee, a slit is inappropriate.

Tops and dresses with sleeves shall be worn. The top must be long enough to cover the top of the skirt/pants if the arms are raised. If a top is worn under a sweater, it must be tucked in. Tops should not have graphics on them. However, innocuous or designer logos are acceptable. Young ladies need to realize the importance of modesty and wear tops that do not have revealing necklines. No T-shirts may be worn except on days permitted by the administration.

Appropriate shoes are sandals, slides, or full shoes. Flip-flops should not be worn. Approved jackets may be worn as dictated by building temperature or teacher approval. Shorts worn for P.E., athletic practices and approved activities must be of modest length. When swimwear is to be worn at a school-sponsored event, girls must wear one-piece swimsuits.

Banquet dress for ladies should follow neckline and garment length stated for school dress. The dress must have straps, should have a straight neckline (i.e., no plunging necklines that show cleavage), be to the top of the knee, and sides and mid-back must be covered. If it is a long dress, any slit needs to be no higher than the knee. Individuals

who choose to violate this standard will be put on banquet probation meaning that their dresses for future banquets will need to be pre-approved by the administration.

Having the body pierced to wear jewelry, other than the ears, is unacceptable. Tattoos (including temporary henna or jagua tattoos) are prohibited.

8.4 BOYS' DRESS CODE

8.4.1 K—6th Boys' Dress Code

Elementary boys may wear slacks and jeans that are neither too snug nor too saggy and baggy. In the months of August and May, khaki shorts may be worn. Athletic and jean shorts, sweatpants, camouflage, or exercise style pants should not be worn. All clothing needs to be free from holes, rips and frayed hems.

Boys should not wear plain white T-shirts. Shirts without collars can be worn, but all shirts must have sleeves. Collared shirts, T-shirts, and athletic jerseys that are too long (mid-thigh) must be tucked in. Any design or writing on the shirt must be in good taste. The school administration reserves the right to make the final decision for each individual case.

On special occasions the students may be allowed to wear modest length athletic shorts or sweatpants. Parents will be notified when those days occur. Otherwise, khaki shorts are to be worn only in the months of August and May.

Full shoes and secure sandals should be worn. For health and safety reasons, shoes without a heel strap are not appropriate. Shoes must be worn at all times in and out of the classroom.

Boys are not to wear earrings. Their hair needs to be neatly trimmed, off of the ear, off of the shirt collar, and above the eyebrow.

8.4.2 7th—12th Boys' Dress Code

Young men will wear slacks or colored jeans (not traditional blue jeans). The slacks/colored jeans should not have a drawstring and must be free of holes, rips, patches, or frayed hems. This includes the modern style of distressed jeans. Shirts with collars must be worn, must be tucked in, and must not be oversized in appearance. Smaller designer logos are acceptable on collared shirts. Shirts with graphics on them are not acceptable. Sweaters may be worn over shirts that are tucked in.

No T-shirts may be worn except on days permitted by the administration. Approved jackets may be worn as dictated by building temperature or teacher approval.

Young men need to have their hair neatly trimmed, off of the ear and shirt collar and above the eyebrows. Facial hair is unacceptable for students. Earrings or having the body pierced to wear jewelry is unacceptable. Tattoos (including temporary henna or jagua tattoos) are prohibited.

8.5 DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

If a student is observed in violation of the dress code, the disciplinary procedure will be as follows: For the first through third offenses the student will receive warnings. Parents

of 7-12 grade students may or may not be notified depending on the nature of the violation, while K-6th grade parents will be notified. The fourth offense will cause the student to receive an after-school detention and a notification to the parents. The fifth violation will merit a letter home and an interview with one of the administrators. The consequence for a sixth violation will be an in-school suspension and a required meeting with the parents. Students are given credit for the work done in their classes that day.