

2010-2011 NCS DRESS CODE – SYSTEM-WIDE (Kdg. – Grade 12)

1. Rationale

- a. Students' dress and personal appearance are primarily the responsibility of each individual student and parent. Style and manner of dress must be consistent with the standards of a Catholic School. The school's function is to promote Catholic values and prevent extremes that might detract from the educational program, and to counsel students who do not use good judgment in complying with acceptable standards.
- b. The manner of dress helps students grow in the virtue of modesty that is at the foundation of their self-respect and their respect of others.
- c. The dress code safeguards and promotes the Christian learning environment.
- d. Students' expectations are raised.
- e. A dress code creates a feeling of oneness and belonging.



2. Minimum Dress Code for Regular Days of School

a. GENERAL CLOTHING AND POSSESSIONS APPEARANCE

- 1) Must be neat and clean.
- 2) Must be hemmed and appropriately fitting with no holes, frays, rips, cut-off, torn or see-through fabric allowed. Undergarments must not be visible.
- 3) All clothing and personal possessions such as backpacks, folders, notebooks, etc. may not contain vulgar expressions, reference to drugs, alcohol, gang alliance, sexual connotations, or exhibit double meanings, advertise alcoholic beverages, bars, rock bands and their activities, or promote values contrary to the Catholic Church.

b. SHORTS, SKORTS, DRESSES GUIDELINES

- 1) No shorter than 3 inches above the kneecap.
- 2) Shorts may only be worn during the months of August, September, May and June and must follow all other guidelines regarding clothing, including the exceptions listed for pants/slacks/capris.

c. PANTS, SLACKS, CAPRIS GUIDELINES - the following MAY NOT be worn

- 1) Blue denim, leisurewear or pajama bottoms, sweatpants, warm-up/workout gear including mesh, double mesh, tear away, etc.
- 2) Leggings as primary wear.
- 3) Combat style, military or camouflage.
- 4) Cargo style pants are allowed as long as they meet the above requirements.

d. SHIRT GUIDELINES

- 1) No traditional, athletic, ribbed neck - crew style T-shirts (except approved NCS spirit wear for elementary schools) tank tops, crop tops, etc. may be worn as primary wear during the school day.
- 2) T-shirts or other shirts that are worn as a second layer under an appropriate shirt must not be visible from the top layer. For example, the second shirt must not be hanging below the primary shirt and the primary shirt must be appropriately buttoned so the second shirt is not fully shown.
- 3) Midriffs must remain covered at all times.
- 4) Off the shoulder tops may not be worn as primary wear.
- 5) Shirts must have collars (i.e. fold over, button down, turtle neck, mock turtle, professional style knit etc.), and must be worn in the style they were designed, (i.e shirts/blouses made with rounded tails to be tucked in, should be tucked in; buttons, buttoned in most cases to the second to the top button).
- 6) A plain pocketed men's style T-shirt is still considered a T-shirt and is not to be worn. T-shirts that are "dressy" that would be appropriate in a "business casual" environment are allowed as long as they meet all other criteria for shirts.
- 7) Shirts with tails that are worn under another shirt must be tucked in. Tails are not to hang out.
- 8) Sweatshirts and sweaters may be worn in accordance with all guidelines regarding clothing.
- 9) Hooded sweatshirts are allowed as long as they follow the graphics guidelines, and are properly fitted (not oversized on the child). Hooded sweatshirts are not allowed at Mass or other religious services.



2. Minimum Dress Code for Regular Days of School (continued)

e. GRAPHICS GUIDELINES

- 1) No graphic on clothing may be larger than 3 inches by 3 inches. The only graphics allowed are neutral value, NCS logos, college logos, and brand name logos (for example, Nike, Reebok).
- 2) Spirit wear from other elementary, middle or high schools is not allowed.

f. SHOES GUIDELINES – This section pertains to Preschool – Grade 12

- 1) Shoes must be worn at all times and should not pose a safety hazard (i.e. no roller shoes, etc.).
- 2) Elementary students are not allowed to wear shoes that qualify as beachwear i.e. flip-flops, thongs, water shoes, etc. Middle school and high school students are allowed to wear flip-flops, open-toed shoes and sandals as long as they support the overall intent of the dress code.
- 3) Shoes with laces must be tied.
- 4) Visible socks/hosiery are required with all footwear with the exception of sandals that may be worn by the middle/high school students without socks/hosiery.
- 5) Elementary students must have heel straps on shoes.
- 6) Dress shoes are discouraged on the playground.



g. HAIR, MAKE UP AND ACCESSORIES GUIDELINES

- 1) Hairstyles must be of reasonable length, style and natural colors; no extremes allowed.
- 2) Boys must be clean-shaven and side-burns may not extend below the ear.
- 3) Make-up, perfumes, after-shaves, cologne, and jewelry are allowed.
- 4) Hats, sunglasses, bandannas, and caps are not appropriate for indoor wear, unless medical conditions require them. Jackets and other outerwear may not be worn in school during class time unless permitted by the school administrator.
- 5) Unusual accessories that draw attention to a student are not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, makeup, hairstyles, long looping chains, wallet chains, unreasonable body piercing, jewelry, including that worn, but not limited to, the tongue, nose, lips, eyebrows, excessive piercing in the ears, etc.
- 6) No visible body art; tattoos, permanent or otherwise.
- 7) Makeup is not allowed at the elementary level.



3. Dress Code for Mass or Prayer Service Days

The expectation is that all students are to be dressed with higher standards on days when Mass or Prayer Services are held, whether on or off school grounds. The recommended standard for boys includes dress pants, neat dress shirts, sweaters, and dress shoes (non-athletic). The recommended standard for girls includes dressy pants, skirts or dresses of appropriate length, dressy shirts, blouses, sweaters, and clean dress shoes (non-athletic). Shorts may not be worn for Mass or prayer services.

4. Dress Code for Physical Education classes

- a. **High School** - Students are to wear athletic style shorts, a T-shirt with preference to school logo, NCS, Gus Macker, sports camps, etc. logos, and gym shoes to all physical education classes unless instructed differently by the teacher.
- b. **Middle School** - Students are to wear athletic style red shorts and regulation middle school physical education T-shirts. Socks and gym shoes are required.
- c. **Elementary School** - Students should adhere to the regular school dress code, unless instructed differently by the teacher. Socks and gym shoes are required.

5. Dress Code for Field Trips

The regular school dress code is in effect for field trips unless the nature of the trip dictates other clothing, for example, work at the school forest may require jeans, while the Solo/Ensemble or Large Group Festival may require band and choir uniforms.

6. Spirit Days

Occasionally students will be given opportunities to wear clothing not allowed on the regular dress code, such as jeans and T-shirts for an earned privilege on a designated “jeans and T-shirt day.” In these cases, clothing must still follow all guidelines listed under the regular dress code with the exception that the students could wear blue denim jeans and athletic style T-shirts as primary wear.

7. Athletic Events - Home and Away

Students attending Newman Athletic events as a spectator are allowed to wear blue denim jeans and athletic style T-shirts as primary wear as long as the overall appearance supports the guidelines for the student dress as stated above. For example, jeans and a short midriff revealing top would not be allowed, but jeans and an athletic style T-shirt that has appropriate graphics and covers the midriff would be allowed. Attendance at state tournament and other post conference athletic events may require specific guidelines for dress. The school will communicate those to students as necessary.

8. School Musical Concerts – 5th grade and up

Students in Band, Jazz Band, Newman Singers and Choir may be required to wear black pants or skirt with a white shirt for all performances unless instructed differently by the teacher. Students may be required to purchase specific wear for these performances.

9. Special Occasions

When there is need for a special occasion dress, all manner of dress must fit within the guidelines/standards set forth by the school for the class or event (i.e. graduation, prom, Peppermint, dances, socials, parties, field trips, away or home sporting events, special school dress up days, etc.). The school administration and/or the supervising teachers reserve the right to not allow admission or participation in these activities and/or initiate disciplinary actions, if, in their judgment the manner of dress does not measure up to the school's guidelines/ standards.

10. High School Formal Wear Requirements

Women

- a. Spaghetti straps and strapless dresses are allowed if worn modestly. The dress must be fitted properly with no gaping away from the chest area or not too loose that the dress slips down. Proper undergarments for strapless attire must also be worn.
- b. Dress length on short dresses should meet usual dress code requirements.
- c. Dress/skirts with slits must meet the same standards as dress length.
- d. Midriffs are not to be exposed either when standing with arms at side or when arms are raised for dancing.
- e. Dresses with cutout sections are to have material over the cutout section. Sheer material is permitted in these cases as long as it is appropriate and not immodest.

Men

- a. Dress shirt and tie.
- b. Dress pants or khaki slacks.
- c. Sport coat, blazer, tux, or sweater (optional).

