

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

GCA has adopted an official school uniform as the basis for the K-12 dress code. This dress code is designed to reflect the seriousness of purpose which each student should bring to his studies. As Christians, all that we do should be a reflection of our walk with Christ, including our style of dress; thus, the guidelines that follow are established to bring unity to the student body and to clarify areas where personal standards may cause conflict. Furthermore, GCA believes that parents or guardians and their students are equally responsible to make dress and grooming choices appropriate to this code.

The preferred vendor for uniforms is School Closet & School Days, who will deliver uniforms to school. Pants, shorts, shirts, sweaters, and accessories may also be purchased from other vendors, but must match those offered through the School Closet & School Days store. Additionally, GCA offers used clothing through a summer uniform resale opportunity. For more information, contact the School Office.

If families choose to use a different vendor, no recognizable differences may occur between uniforms worn that were purchased from another vendor and those offered by the School Closet & School Days store.

Jumpers, skirts, quarter zip pullovers, and school jackets must be purchased through the following organization:

School Closet & School Days
73 N. Stygler Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

614/476-4106 877/725-6467 www.schoolcloset.com

The Administration of GCA reserves the right to make discretionary decisions concerning this code and individual cases. GCA students are to arrive at school in proper uniform attire, as defined by the following dress code guidelines, and are to remain in proper uniform attire until the end of the school day:

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL STUDENTS

1. Clothing/footwear must be in good condition, free of holes, tears, and frays, and must not be distracting.
2. Clothing should fit modestly, not oversized or too tight.
3. Pants, shorts, and skirts may not be worn in a “low-riding” position but must be worn as they are made to fit.
4. Hair should be of natural colors. Dyeing of unnatural hair colors (burgundy, green, blue, etc.) or styles that draw undue attention are not permitted. Any hair coloring should only complement the existing color; thus, a natural color remains.
5. Hair must be kept clean and well groomed. Hair may not be excessively spiked. No design may be shaved into the hair, and no partially or fully shaved heads are permitted. Extreme or eccentric hairstyles will be determined by the Administration and addressed individually.
6. Shorts may not be worn between Thanksgiving Break and Spring Break.
7. Tennis shoes, dress shoes (maximum two-inch heel), casual shoes, boots, and clogs with a hard sole intended for outdoor wear are permitted. Slippers, sandals, and flip-flops are not permitted.
8. Hats may not be worn in the school building at any time, unless specifically approved by the Administration.
9. Tattoos are not permitted. Students with existing tattoos including temporary tattoos, must keep them covered. **Students may not write on their own or anyone else’s body.**
10. No sunglasses may be worn in the building during the school day unless specifically approved by the Administration.
11. Excessive or inappropriate jewelry will be addressed individually.

GENERAL UNIFORM GUIDELINES FOR ALL STUDENTS

1. The official school uniform must be worn every day, unless special “dress down” instructions have been approved by the Administration.
2. Students have the option of tucking in their polo shirts unless they are dressing up for an athletic event, in which shirts must be tucked in. Button-up shirt hems may not be folded up and under to look as though they are tucked in.
3. Long-sleeved shirts may not be worn under short-sleeved shirts.
4. Uniform pants must be straight leg-style and hemmed appropriately. No jean material or sewn-on back pockets are allowed, **including skinny-pant style**. Tan khaki color should not be caramel-colored.
5. Neutral-colored (white, grey, or black) T-shirts are permitted under uniform shirts.
6. A belt is required with uniform pants and shorts when shirts are tucked in.
7. The official GCA gray or navy blue fleece jacket, quarter-zip pullover, school uniform sweaters, and school uniform vests are the only outerwear garments permitted to be worn throughout the school day. Quarter-zip pullovers must be worn over a polo or must be zipped to cover an undershirt. Sweatshirts (pullover, zipped, hooded, etc.), jackets, coats, vests, sweaters, gloves, scarves, or any non-uniform items are not permitted.
8. Socks must not be distracting.
9. Uniform pants may not be tucked into boots.
10. All students must wear tennis shoes for physical education classes.
11. All shoestrings must be tied or “tucked” in the shoe.



SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR YOUNG LADIES

1. School uniform shorts, skirts, and jumpers must be no shorter than two (2) inches above the top of the kneecap.
2. Skirts may not be rolled at the waistband.
3. Shorts, tights, or leggings must be worn under skirts. Tights or leggings must be of a solid color.
4. Leggings, running tights, or tight-fitting yoga pants are not permitted to be worn alone at any time.
5. Turtlenecks may be worn only under a uniform sweater, long-sleeved oxford shirt, or jumper.
6. Undergarments must be worn.
7. Earrings are the only pierced jewelry permitted. No gauges are permitted.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR YOUNG MEN

1. School uniform shorts must be no shorter than two (2) inches above the top of the kneecap. No cargo-style shorts are permitted.
2. No earrings or other pierced jewelry of any kind are permitted at school or at any school-sponsored or sanctioned event.
3. Hair may be no longer than the top of the collar in the back, off the ears, and no longer than the top of the eyebrows when worn styled. Hair that requires bands/clips is not permitted.
4. Sideburns may not extend below the bottom of the ear.
5. Young men must be clean shaven at all times. Facial hair or shadow look is not permitted.

DRESS CODE VARIABLES

Variations are part of the official GCA uniform dress code and may be mixed and matched as the student chooses as long as they remain within the options offered through the GCA account on the School Closet & School Days store (see the link on the school website).

SCHOOL JACKETS

All official GCA school jackets are available for purchase exclusively through School Closet & School Days, 79 N. Stygler Rd., Gahanna, Ohio 43230 ((800) 627-2409). Please note that this contact information for jackets is different than for uniform purchases.

When purchasing school jackets families should note that each jacket has a specific design. The vendor will advise purchasers of the design, and no changes or variations to any part of the official GCA designs are permitted. Two (2) of our jackets are available to high school students only. Parents and K-8 students have another design available to them.

PICTURE DAY DRESS

Students may dress down or may dress up for picture days. Dress for these days should follow the general principles of the GCA dress code (see the “General Guidelines” section of the Parent/Student Handbook). In addition, no off-the-shoulder, strapless, or spaghetti-strap tops/dresses are permitted. T-shirts must not promote bands or slogans that conflict with GCA philosophies.

DRESS DOWN DAYS

Throughout the school year, there will be Dress-Down Days on the last day of each school week. Students may dress down in GCA-approved dress down if they choose. Students may wear approved GCA T-shirts or sweatshirts with jeans, athletic pants, sweat pants, and shorts (no shorter than 2 inches above the knee/not between Thanksgiving and Spring Break). Girls may wear skirts that are no shorter than 2 inches above the knee. Dressing down is not required, and a student who chooses not to dress down will need to be in proper school uniform attire.

All newly-designed GCA dress-down T-shirts and athletic team dress-down shirts must be approved by the Administration.

GCA does observe other special dress-down days throughout the school year. These days are meant to be fun and are not meant to encourage or allow dress in styles that contradict our Christian walk. It is expected that students will use discretion and uphold the values of young Christians when choosing their attire for these types of functions.

GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETIC PRACTICES

Proper clothing must always be worn -- no bare feet, no socks only, no bare tops (men) on coed teams, no sports bras showing (ladies), and no "street clothing." **Leggings, spandex, and other similarly styled attire may not be worn alone.** All other decisions concerning practice attire is up to the discretion of the Coach and what they deem appropriate or inappropriate. Uniforms are for games and are NEVER worn as practice attire.

GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETIC GAME DAYS

Athletic Teams must all be uniform in their dress on game days. When a game falls on a school day, athletes are permitted to wear their jerseys (no sleeveless attire) or warm-up tops which must be tucked in and khaki dress pants with a belt. Warm-up tops and khaki pants must follow school dress code policies and guidelines as specified in the Parent/Student Handbook (See the "Dress Code Guidelines" section).

For games scheduled on the regular end-of-week school dress down days, students may wear jeans with their jerseys following the guidelines above. For games scheduled on any other special dress-down day, athletes will follow the regular game-day dress guidelines. These dress-down days may not be rescheduled to a different day to accommodate the loss of the special dress-down day.

GUIDELINES FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

Elementary students will participate in Physical Education (PE) during the week. On PE days, girls should wear shorts or leggings under their skirts/jumpers. Also, all students should wear athletic-type shoes. Middle school and high school students enrolled in PE are required to wear official GCA black gym shorts/athletic pants (purchased from School Closet & School Days), approved GCA short-sleeved T-shirts, and athletic shoes for PE class. Non-GCA attire is not permitted.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL-SPONSORED & SPECIAL EVENTS

The GCA Special Event Dress Code is based on the biblical principles of modesty and appropriateness. Although family dress rules may vary, we believe the following standards unite our students in a way that provides the best opportunity to serve one another in love while being respectful to other believers and non-believers.

School standards of modesty and appropriate taste must be observed at school functions such as athletic events, school dances, fundraising events, special dress-down days, etc., by both GCA students, their families, and their guests. **Guests of students must follow the same guidelines as students for dances.**

General Guidelines for All

1. Each event will specify the requirements or guidelines that apply to that event.
2. Shorts, jeans, T-shirts, warm-ups, etc. are not permitted unless approved by the Administration.
3. Clothing should fit modestly, not oversized or too tight.
4. Shorts worn at school-sponsored events must be no shorter than mid-thigh.

5. Athletic uniform shorts not meeting the length requirement may only be worn for the sport for which they were assigned.
6. Leggings, running tights, or tight-fitting yoga pants that are worn alone are not permitted at any time.
7. Tattoos are not permitted. Students with existing tattoos must keep them covered.
8. Hair should be of natural colors. Dyeing of unnatural hair colors (burgundy, green, blue, etc.) or styles that draw undue attention are not permitted. Any hair coloring should only complement the existing color; thus, a natural color remains.
9. No off-the-shoulder, strapless, or spaghetti-strap tops/dresses are permitted.
10. Field trips/special trips will publish the expected dress code with approval from the Administration.

SPECIAL EVENT GUIDELINES FOR YOUNG LADIES

All dresses and other formal attire, even those of outside dates, must be pre-approved by the Special Events Dress Committee no later than one (1) week prior to the event. If a dress does not meet standards, it must be corrected and evaluated again for approval prior to the event. A checklist of the below guidelines will be used for the approval process; in addition to this list, all other Special Event Guidelines apply:

1. Dresses must be of modest length (no shorter than three (3) inches above the top of the kneecap). If the dress has a slit, the slit must not be shorter than three (3) inches above the kneecap.
2. Dress backs must not be cut below the mid-back.
3. Separate undergarments must be worn if not integrated as part of the dress.
4. No cleavage can be showing. No bodice cut-outs or two-piece midriff-baring dresses without solid, non-transparent fabric beneath them will be permitted.
5. Earrings are the only pierced jewelry permitted.

SPECIAL EVENT GUIDELINES FOR YOUNG MEN

All young men, even outside dates, are required to adhere to the following Dress Code Guidelines in addition to all other Special Event Guidelines:

1. Dress shirt, tie, dress pants, and shoes (no athletic shoes) must be worn.
2. No body piercing jewelry may be worn. This includes earrings.
3. Hair may not be excessively spiked.