



PHILOSOPHY OF APPEARANCE

At Hill Country Christian School, we submit to a set of personal appearance guidelines that create boundaries while allowing freedom to uphold our school's academic focus and Christ-centered mission. We maintain that modesty, neatness, and appropriateness for school are the guiding principles for practical dress code standards. These standards provide structure and autonomy as students learn how to exercise self-control, present themselves to others, and keep their focus on the inward disposition of their hearts. We believe Hill Country students should learn self-regulation, a virtue in line with the freedom of the Gospel and of immense practical value as they mature and prepare for their adult lives.

Students should be in dress code when they arrive on campus and remain in dress code until they leave campus for the day. Parents and students are responsible for ensuring the student's attire meets the dress code. If there is ever any question in a student's or parent's mind as to whether an article of clothing meets the stated dress code guidelines, it is best not to wear that article of clothing.

****Denotes Updates to Dress Code Guidelines**

CLOTHING GUIDELINES FOR GRADES PK-5:

- Jeans and pants are acceptable but must not have tears, rips, cut-outs, fraying, or sagging. All jeans must have a regular hem.
- Students should wear tennis shoes or sandals with a strap across the back since we have recess daily.
- Hair should be clean, neat (i.e., brushed or combed), and natural human color. Hair chalk and dyes are not allowed. Hair length, color, and style must not draw blatant or unwarranted attention to the wearer.
- We will host dress-up days that the school and/or teachers will communicate in advance. Students are encouraged to bring extra shoes for recess and PE if needed.
- Extreme hairstyles, including faux hawks, mohawks, mullets, insignias or lines shaved on the head or dyed into hair, or unnatural coloring, are not permitted for boys or girls.
- Visible piercings (other than small earrings for girls) or mutilation of any body part is not permitted. Visible tattoos are not permitted.
- Fake tattoos are not permitted except on special days, i.e., pep rallies.
- Students should not wear hats, visors, bandanas, or sweatbands indoors during the academic day (except PE or other dress-up days, which will be communicated in advance).
- Students may not use any part of their attire as a form of morally or socially inappropriate expression.
- ****Clothing should never reflect Gothic, sexual, negative, violent, or political themes, differing lifestyles, or trends. This includes video games with violent and inappropriate content and T-shirts or sweatshirts representing music groups that are not mission appropriate.**
- Hill Country reserves the right to require a student to get a haircut, change a style, or change color if, in the administration's judgment, the student's choice creates a distraction.

SPECIFIC GIRLS GUIDELINES FOR CLOTHING AND APPEARANCE:

- ****Girls' shorts and dresses must reach midthigh and be no more than five inches above the knee when standing with hands at the side of each leg. Shorts should not be form-fitting. ([examples](#))**
- ****Running shorts of any kind are not permitted.**
- ****Tennis skirts/skorts, regardless of the length, are not permitted.**
- Girls' jeans and shorts must have a finished hem. Frayed, distressed, or shorts with holes are not permitted.
- Leggings (without sheer panels) may be worn with a blouse or T-shirt that extends past the bottom. Blouses and T-shirts that only extend to the waistline are not long enough.
- Girls must wear modesty shorts underneath dresses.
- Girls' tops must be modest and cover the shoulder.
- ****Dresses with a cut-out on the back are not permitted.**



- Sleeveless dresses or tops must have straps at least two inches wide. Use the width of a credit card as a guideline. (no spaghetti straps, halters, or racerbacks) This applies to dresses for school performances (e.g., Christmas program and Evening of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness) and 5th-grade graduation.
- Girls may wear school-approved team uniforms on the day of their respective sport (Pep Squad on Fridays).
- Girls may wear headbands, but they should not be distracting (e.g., a unicorn horn headband is unacceptable).
- Makeup is not permitted.
- Fake nails are not permitted. Girls may only wear light-colored nail polish.

SPECIFIC BOYS GUIDELINES FOR CLOTHING AND APPEARANCE:

- Boys' shirts and T-shirts must have sleeves.
- Boys may wear athletic pants and shorts. Shorts must reach mid-thigh when standing and should not be form-fitting.
- Boys' hair should be neatly cut and combed. Hair must not extend past the collar. The side length should allow the lower half of the ear to show. The hair must be above the eyebrows.
- Boys are not permitted to have faux hawks, mohawks, any type of mullet (longer hair over the center of the head and shaved on the sides resembling a mohawk or faux hawk), or insignias or lines shaved on the head or dyed into the hair.
- Boys should not wear earrings of any kind on campus or at any school-related events.
- Boys may wear school-approved team uniforms on the day of their respective sport (Knight Guard on Fridays).

PRESCHOOL CLOTHING INFORMATION

- Children should wear play clothes appropriate for the season and weather conditions. Please label all coats and sweaters.
- Children should wear clothing that is stretchy enough and not too restricting so it allows them to move around easily.
- All pants/shorts should be elastic waist so that they can pull up / down, on their own, when needing to use the bathroom.
- If girls choose to wear skirts/dresses, they must wear shorts or tights underneath.
- Shoes should be velcro/buckle/slip-on shoes only. No flip flops, as when children run, they tend to fall off, or they can potentially trip. Sandals must have straps around the heels.
- All shoes should be comfortable for playing in the gym/playground. Young children must wear the proper type of shoes for playing, such as tennis shoes.
- When wearing dress shoes for special events, parents should send tennis shoes for recess.
- Students are involved in many activities, some of which are messy. Please send them with clothes that are washable and will not cause you or your student to worry.
- Girls should wear shorts under their dresses and skirts, as we have recess daily.
- Please send a change of clothes, including underwear and socks, in a large Ziploc bag with your child's name on it.