

DMCS Student & Employee Dress Code

The purpose of specified dress standards is to provide guidelines within which students and staff have the freedom to express individual tastes, while not being disruptive to the educational process or detrimental to one's Christian testimony. A wholesome appearance that reflects a pure heart is of primary importance when choosing clothes for school or school related functions (Board Policy 402.13 and 502.8). While certain clothing will not by itself create a responsible, humble follower, a dress code can present opportunities for personal growth and development of Christian character, especially when applied in an atmosphere, which seeks to integrate all aspects of life from a biblical perspective. We expect our students and staff to exemplify biblical standards in their dress, as well as their attitudes and lifestyles, and to encourage others to do likewise. Personal appearance that is considered questionable is left to the discretion of the Des Moines Christian administration. Administration also reserves the right to waive any of the following policies for special occasions and circumstances.

General Appearance Standards

- Clothing needs to be in good condition with no holes, whether accidental or on purpose.
- Clothing with any writing on it must not be sexually suggestive and must not promote tobacco, drugs, alcohol, gangs, or music groups that have demonstrated non-Christian values.
- Tattoos must not be visible.
- Earrings for female students and staff are the only acceptable body piercing. No gauging is allowed.

Tops

- One's midriff, either front or back, may not be exposed.
- Cleavage must not be visible at any time.
- Shirts with an open back are not allowed.
- Tank tops, camis, strapless tops, or halter-tops may not be worn as a single garment.
- Sheer shirts must have a tank top under them and cannot be worn with a cami, strapless top, or halter-top.

Bottoms

- Pants, jeans, or any other type of bottoms must not fit too tight or too loose. Some examples of inappropriate fit would include the following:
- Leggings, jeggings, yoga pants, etc.
- Pants so loose they can be pulled down over the hips.
- Writing across the seat is NOT permitted.
- Skirts, shorts, and dresses must be a modest length (mid-thigh or longer).
- Even if leggings are worn underneath, the skirt/shorts/dress must still follow length guidelines.
- Pajama and flannel pants may not be worn.
- Underwear is not to be visible (including bras and bra straps).

Shoes - must be worn at all times.

Hats & Hair

- Caps, hats, and headwear are not allowed during the school day.
- Male students and staff must keep hair clean and groomed. Hair length must be shorter than the collar in the back (as measured by the chapel shirt), may not extend beyond the eyebrows in the front, and must ensure ear lobes are visible. Facial hair must be neatly trimmed.

Swimwear - Swimsuits for school related activities must be one piece or an appropriate tankini for female students and staff members. Male students and staff must wear appropriate trunks. Speedo-type suits are not allowed.

Chapel Attire - Every Thursday is chapel day for K-12 students and staff. DMCS has a uniform policy for chapel days to enhance unity. Chapel attire is worn for the entire school day (including part-time students and staff) and cannot be covered by jackets, coats, or sweatshirts.

- JH/HS BOYS – Khaki pants or shorts* and an official DMCS navy blue logo shirt (polo or fleece).
- JH/HS GIRLS - Khaki pants or capris that extend beyond the knee and an official DMCS navy blue logo shirt (polo or fleece).
- ELEMENTARY BOYS – Khaki pants or shorts* and an official DMCS navy blue logo shirt (polo or fleece).
- ELEMENTARY GIRLS – Khaki pants, mid-thigh or longer shorts*, skirts, shorts, or capris that extend beyond the knee and an official DMCS navy blue logo shirt (polo or fleece).

* Shorts may be worn anytime during the year as long as they meet dress code standards

Dances - In general, the General Appearance Standards apply for dances.

- Due to the unique formal wear available for girls, the following guidelines apply:
- Slits in the dress will be no higher than the skirt or dress length standards of the dress code.
- No midriffs will be exposed on either the front or the back. The top half of the back may be exposed but not the bottom half.
- The dress top will be modest so as to not show cleavage when standing or sitting.
- Photos of dresses may be brought to the Secondary Office for approval if there is a concern about compliance.
- Non-DMCS dates must abide by this same dress code. DMCS students need to be very clear in communicating these standards to avoid embarrassment of their non-DMCS date.

Physical Education Classes - Guidelines outlined in the General Appearance Standards must be followed during P.E. classes.

Extra-Curricular Practices - Clothing for students and coaches in extracurricular activities may need to be activity-specific and activity-appropriate. All guidelines from the General Appearance Standards will be followed *unless* specifically altered by the Activities Director. Coaches/Directors will communicate dress code exceptions or alterations to athletes and parents.

- **PRACTICE REMINDERS:** Spandex may not be worn as the sole garment (example: running shorts); girls may not wear shirts that show sports bras, boys may not wear ripped shirts that show midriffs, etc. Students may be held accountable for practice attire and be subject to discipline as they would be during the school day.

Staff Enforcement of Dress Code - All DMCS staff is responsible for monitoring student dress code; therefore, teachers will conduct purposeful dress code check throughout the day. Students in violation of the dress code will be sent to the office.

Student Consequences for Dress Code Violation - Student violation of the dress code standards shall result in the following:

- The first violation will be a warning in the student's record; parents may be contacted either by email or phone. The student will need to change into appropriate clothing. Students can either secure appropriate clothing or wear items provided by DMCS for the remainder of the day. Missed classes while changing clothes will be considered unexcused absences.
- Subsequent violations will result in parental contact and detentions. Repeat offenders are subject to further disciplinary action as determined by the appropriate administrator.