

## DRESS CODE

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### Purpose and General Guidelines

**Calvary Murrieta Christian School** has been established as a discipleship based learning environment. We partner with you, our parents, to care for the adornment and decorum of each student as we teach and enforce godly dress. It is important that our school standards for clothing and general appearance are understood and supported by all of our parents so we can provide a clear and united teaching for our youth. The fashion world is developing new styles all the time, and the styles are not always right or wrong; however, in a day of constantly deteriorating cultural styles, we feel we must set a minimum standard which will bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ. **If there is any question in your mind regarding what your students want to wear, the best thing to do is either not let them wear it, or have them get permission ahead of time.** It is our prayer that you will have godly discernment as you and your child select clothes in line with the school's guidelines. We do expect a willing spirit of cooperation from students and parents, and the Administration reserves the right to make the final decision in matters of judgment.

### In the BEGINNING.....

Since each of us are created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27) we need to see ourselves as He sees us. Our outward appearance is a reflection of the way we view ourselves and how we think God sees us. We want our students to understand that they are valuable because God created them, not because they are physically attractive to the opposite sex. It all starts with our self-image. Do we see ourselves as God sees us?

### What is modest?

Clothes were given by God to cover the body (Genesis 3:21), particularly so that our thoughts would remain pure. Adam and Eve thought they knew what was best to wear, but God showed them a better way. People who dress in a seductive manner are doing what they think is best according to their own standard. Asking for attention from the opposite sex through your dress is neither holy nor godly. Dannah Gresh, author of *Secret Keeper: The Delicate Power of Modesty*, describes the reason we desire to instill modesty in our students, whether male or female. "Both (male and female) need to understand that our beauty comes from within, not from our outward appearance. Lack of modesty is rampant in churches. I believe churches need to explain "why" modesty is so important, and "why" immodesty is so dangerous. Dressing modestly is a heart issue. The Christian faith does not condemn beauty. Fashion is okay, but God wants us to be more concerned with our inner beauty than our external beauty."

### Importance of Purity

Everywhere our students look, even walking past popular clothing stores, something is teaching them to grow up as quickly as possible. True purity is freedom: freedom from anything that debases, corrupts or pollutes. This can relate to many areas of our students' lives but in terms of their dress, we want them to realize how crucial that freedom of purity is. We are to glorify Him in all we do, including the way we choose to dress. It is our deep desire that each student who graduates from Calvary Murrieta Christian School leaves with their purity intact.

### Safety

Some of our dress code is a result of concern for our students' safety during school and school activities.

### Dress Code Standards

Modesty is our hope, and our desire is to encourage students to make choices based on that hope. If you are in need of specific details on how the school views modesty, please see the guidelines, below.

#### A) **Tops** (i.e. shirts)

1. **Standard Tops**

Tops should be of a fabric (not a sheer fabric) and a fit that does not reveal undergarments. Extra tight fitting tops that cling to the body (like Lycra or Spandex) are not permitted. If any part of the midriff shows when the arms are raised fully above the head or the student is leaning over, then the top is too short. If any cleavage shows, the top is too low.

2. **Sleeveless Tops**

This is very difficult to manage here at school. Although some sleeveless shirts are modest, others are not. In order to avoid the uncomfortable situation in which a judgment call (which may be perceived as unfair) regarding a shirt must be made by the teacher and/or administrator, sleeveless shirts or tank tops cannot show any part of a student's undergarment. The top also must not be designed as an undergarment. Please understand our heart is to encourage modesty, and tank tops or sleeveless tops are very difficult to keep in this realm. Here are some key parameters: Two inch straps, Small arm holes, Loose fitting around the chest.

3. **Slogans**

While many articles of clothing advertise messages that are not contrary to the mission and purpose of Calvary Murrieta Christian School, in order to avoid the making of value judgments by school personnel regarding messages conveyed on clothing: Any article of clothing (including Christian apparel) that initially seems to advertise a message contrary to the mission and purpose of CMCS may not be worn (example-"B-Wiser" t-shirt with the Budweiser look). In addition, clothing with slogans written on a student's bottom is not permissible.

**B) Pants, Shorts, Skirts, or Dresses**

1. **Fitting**

No oversized, baggy, or extra long pants or jeans that drag on the floor will be permitted. Extremely tight-fitting (skin-tight) pants or jeans are also not permitted. (Avoid materials like Lycra or Spandex.) We want to promote a learning environment. Proper fitting clothing must be worn so that students are not distracted by their own clothing (pulling up or down on a garment) or another student's clothing.

2. **Length**

The length of clothing is also a very intricate subject within the school modesty regulations. We would like to allow students the freedom to enjoy fashion, but help them understand when it is compromising their purity and modesty. Together we (school and parents) must make teachable moments. We need to help students make a good clothing choice while shopping, always keeping in mind that they are followers of Christ. When we start saying, "These are good school clothes, and these are ok to wear outside of school" we are encouraging two lives, or as we would say Biblically, "two masters". Here are some key parameters to go by if you struggle in this area: No undergarments should be visible; No more than 4 inches above the top of the knee when standing. Shreds, rips, or holes are not allowed above the knee. None of our parameters are all inclusive but they are in place to help encourage modesty so that we stop drawing attention to our skin and start drawing others to The Spirit.

**C) Shoes**

Appropriate shoes are important for various activities. Flip flops are not appropriate for P.E. or breaks for safety reasons. Students will be expected to bring tennis shoes for those activities. If the student's flip flops become a distraction in the classroom (sometimes it's hard to have or "wear them" and not play with them), the teacher may ask the student to change them. This, as are all of our dress code parameters, is a responsibility, and as such, if we as a school feel you are not able to handle that responsibility, it will be taken away.

**D) Make-up**

Girls may wear light, modest make-up.

**E) Hair and Hats**

Hair is to be neat, clean, combed; natural in color and not covering the face. Gentlemen, as a privilege or

rite of passage, only our seniors may choose to grow out their facial hair, but it must keep it neat and trimmed. Hats are very practical and can be a great accessory to fashion but should not be worn in classrooms.

#### **F) Jewelry**

Students may wear modest jewelry, including rings, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings (girls only). Students will be asked to remove inappropriate jewelry.

#### **G) Tattoos and Body Piercing**

Tattoos and body piercings (other than earrings) are not permitted. Because of the permanence of piercings or other bodily alterations, we will ask you to wait until you have turned 18 and graduated to make that choice. Please don't cause us to enforce this section of the dress code. Because it is a permanent alteration to your body, the consequences, unfortunately, will be equally permanent.

#### **H) Swimsuits**

If swimsuits are worn for any school function they need to be modest. Boys must wear knee-length shorts, and girls must wear a modest one-piece suit. Or if two pieces, the suit must be completely covered by a dark colored t-shirt and shorts that follow the standard dress code. Again, we are focusing on modesty and doing our best not to draw attention to our skin but to our spirit.

#### **I) Formal or Semi-Formal Events**

We want everyone to enjoy these festive evening events and have great memories of wonderful fellowship and activities. As we have stated, modesty and purity will be a mainstay of the evening. Here are a few guidelines:

1. **For the Ladies:** Strapless gowns are acceptable but must be modest. The neckline of the dress must not fall where cleavage or undergarments are visible. The back of the gown cannot be lower than the bra line. Skin tight gowns made of Lycra fabrics and other fabrics that cling to the body will not be a part of the evening's dress code, no matter what the length. If a short dress is desired, the hemline will not be more than four inches above the top of the knee. Remember we desire to be ruled by The Spirit. \* Special note: If in doubt, please check with administration. Modest formal or semi-formal attire is a must. Administration reserves the right to approve or disapprove a dress.
2. **For the Gentlemen:**  
Tux, suit, slacks, jacket, vest, nice shirt and tie are all part of the evening's attire. No baggy slacks and no jeans, please.

#### **J) Practice Apparel for Sporting Events**

Athletic apparel for a sporting event will be unique to each team. Teams will determine (with Athletic Director approval) their own needs for practice and game apparel. They will, however, need to stay within our school dress code with the following exception: Shorts (these cannot be lycra or spandex) may be slightly shorter than stated in our dress code as long as they are no shorter than the length of their team uniform.

Please remember, we want our students to understand that they are valuable because God created them, not because they are physically attractive to the opposite sex. It all starts with our self-image. Do we see ourselves as God sees us? If we do, then we should dress with Him in mind.