

## **DRESS CODE**

Since the Bible teaches a standard of excellence in all things, it is our belief that we should strive to ensure that our appearance meets that standard. The intent of our dress code is to promote modesty as well as a clean and neat appearance. We believe that appearance not only impacts the learning environment, but adds to the strength of our Christian witness, all of which represent our purpose as a school. We strongly encourage appropriate, professional dress and good grooming, and ask that parents and students understand the purpose of these guidelines. The dress code guidelines apply to all students while at school and at school-sponsored functions whether on our campus or at other locations. Parents are responsible for making sure their children's uniforms and grooming meet ELCA's standard of excellence.

All students must follow the Uniform Daily Dress Code, located on the School Store website – Uniform Information & Guidelines.

## **HAIR GUIDELINES**

All decisions regarding hair and dress code are made at the discretion of the ELCA Administration.

Boy's hair should meet the following criteria:

- Hair should be neat and well-groomed.
- Hair length in the front should not cover the eyes or extend below eye level. On the sides, hair length should not exceed below the bottom of the earlobe. In the back, hair length should not exceed the top of the collar without the use of hair accessories such as pins or bands. In height, hair should not exceed 3 inches from the scalp.
- Extreme styles are not permitted. No designs or multiple lines are to be shaved in hair or eyebrows.
- Hair should remain its natural color - no multi-colored hair is allowed.
- Facial hair is allowed for high school male students. All facial hair must be close-cut (1/8") and wellgroomed.
- No hair accessories are permitted for male students.
- Male students are not to have ponytails or manbuns.

Girl's hair should meet the following criteria:

- Hair should be neat, clean, and well-groomed so as not to distract from the learning environment.
- Extreme styles are not permitted. Highlights must be natural in color and blended. Unnatural colors like green, blue, red, white, grey, purple, etc. are not permitted.
- Braids or extensions must match natural hair color and may have natural-colored highlights.
- Shaved or buzzed styles are not permitted for female students.
- Hair accessories must be conservative in style and amount. Accessories in hair and dress for female students should not be distracting to the learning environment.

Students who do not meet the criteria may be subject to being placed in ISS until hair meets the school's guidelines. It is the responsibility of the student and the parent to know when it is time for a haircut. If a student comes to school with an extreme hairstyle, parents will be contacted, and the student will be sent home immediately. The student will be allowed back to school when the hairstyle is deemed appropriate according to the hair policy guidelines. If a student or parent has a question about whether a particular hairstyle meets school approval, it would be best to check with the appropriate administrator. It is left to the discretion of the administration to determine what is considered extreme or inappropriate for the student at school.

## **FRIDAY WEAR POLICY**

Students are allowed to dress down on Fridays for the purpose of benefiting our mission's giving in the community and abroad. For a student to forgo the uniform that day and take advantage of the Friday dress he or she will need to pay \$1.00 for that day during home room. Students will not be able to bill their

account and must bring the money with them; however, for convenience, the money may be paid in advance for the entire school year. Students who fail to pay the mission money will have to change into the school uniform. Students who repeatedly fail to pay their money will not be able to participate for the remainder of the year and will be required to wear the school uniform. Wearing any non-uniform pants, shirt, jacket, or shoes means that the student must contribute \$1.00 for missions. The money goes directly to missionary families and individuals that the school has chosen to support. To find out who is being supported from year to year one can go to the website or contact the Advancement Office.

#### **Guidelines for Friday wear pants and shirts:**

- Jeans or any non-uniform Khaki may be worn. Jeans must be blue, black, or khaki in color with no designs, graphics, logos, etc.
- No Cargo pants or shorts will be allowed.
- Pants must not be too tight, nor should any flesh or briefs be visible between the pants and shirt.
- Pants may not be ripped, torn or have holes in them.
- Pants must be pulled up to the waistline and not sagging.
- A belt must be worn.
- ELCA T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, or outerwear may be worn. This may include ELCA athletic, fine arts or school club apparel. Any youth church camp or church apparel must be approved by the Administration.
- All shirts must be crew neck or have a crew neck t-shirt underneath. Boat neck, v-neck, or any other pullovers or jerseys must have a crew neck t-shirt underneath.
- Uniform button-up white or striped shirts may be worn only with a sweater vest.

#### **Shoes**

- Non-uniform shoes, including tennis shoes, may be worn if they completely cover the toe and heel.
- No sandals, high heel shoe or boot, platform shoes, or anything similar may be worn.
- Boots without a high heel may be worn but not with uniform skirts.
- Socks must be worn with any shoes.

Students who abuse the Friday policy will receive a written warning or one hour detention and will be required to change clothes or shoes to remain in school that day. ELCA administration will be the final authority in determining compliance.

#### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS TO DRESS CODE**

PE. Days - Athletic shoes or shoes appropriate for running must be worn during PE. Appropriate clothing within dress code boundaries is necessary.

Field Trips – Students leaving campus will be required to dress according to regular school dress code. Students not appropriately dressed will remain on campus. Exceptions to this rule may be made by school administrators only. All students must ride on the school's bus unless they ride with their own parents. Students may not ride with another student's parents.

Class Trips - Class trips must have a direct spiritual or educational purpose. Students and parents are required to sign a trip covenant. Students are to wear the required school uniform to and from their destination while on school trips. Exceptions to this rule may be made by school administrators only.

#### **Unacceptable Attire for All Students:**

- Earrings (girls): there should not be any more than two earrings per ear worn in the outer ear. No oversized or gaudy earrings.
- Absolutely NO earrings for boys
- Chokers
- Body piercings, including but not limited to: facial piercings such as nose, tongue and eyebrow piercings • Excessive make-up (gothic, etc.)

- Distracting/symbolic (anti-Christian) jewelry
- No gauges
- Tattoos – ELCA strongly discourages students from getting/having tattoos. Any student who has a tattoo is required to have it always covered during the school day or while they are attending or participating in an extracurricular event or practice. Any violation of this policy will result in an automatic detention.
- Hats or hoods may not be worn in the building.
- Earbuds, airpods and earphones are not permitted.
- Bandanas should not be worn at school at any time.

**Requested Parent Dress** - When attending school functions such as field trips, extracurricular activities, and class parties, please take into consideration ELCA's dress policy, which emphasizes modesty in appearance.

Note: The administration is the final authority in dress and grooming matters. If a student is in doubt about an item of clothing meeting the dress and grooming standards, he should discuss it with the principal before wearing it to school.