

ELKHART CHRISTIAN ACADEMY DRESS CODE 2011-2012

The dress code at Elkhart Christian Academy is intended to provide a general framework within which parents and students can make wise decisions regarding appropriate clothing for school. Though the Scriptures do not give specific details of what is appropriate or inappropriate in dress, clear principles are given which should govern our choices as we seek to be good disciples of Jesus Christ.

Students, when selecting clothes, should honor the Lord Jesus Christ, honor their parents, and this school. The Scriptures stress the importance of obeying and honoring your parents and those in authority over you (Ephesians 6:1, 2; 1 Timothy 2:2; Hebrew 13:17).

Our dress code is based on the biblical principles of modesty, neatness, and appropriateness. Modesty is mentioned often as an important character quality (1 Timothy 2:9; 1Thess. 4:5, 6). Modest people don't go out of their way to bring undue attention to themselves. Likewise, neatness and appropriateness are important as we seek to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ. We need to be examples for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, in purity (1 Timothy 4:2). We also desire to give a good report and not be offensive in anything we do. This suggests living differently than the world (1 John 2:15). As we determine to glorify the Lord in all we do (1 Cor. 10:31), these qualities help us to do that in the area of dress. *We discourage students from wearing clothing that promotes an unbiblical lifestyle, such as Abercrombie and Fitch, Hollister, and others whose advertising practices clearly do not honor God.*

We expect that all ECA students will abide by the principles of neatness, appropriateness and modesty which apply to student attire after school, during practices, involvement in extra-curricular activities and other school sponsored functions.

It is also important to realize that parents, as the primary educators of their children (Deut. 6; Eph. 6), play a key role in this area of dress code. It is incumbent upon parents to guide and supervise their children in the selection of appropriate clothing. Accordingly, this dress code is intended to make known in as clear a way as possible the position, guidelines, and restrictions of Elkhart Christian Academy in the area of dress. **If you have a question about any article of clothing, we encourage you to bring it to the appropriate school personnel and have it checked *before* a student wears it to school.**

ELEMENTARY GIRLS Grades PreK-2		
CATEGORY	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL CLOTHING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • neat, modest, appropriate for school environment • in good repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • faded, holes, frayed, tears
TOPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • t-shirts, blouses, sweaters, sweatshirts, sleeveless shirts • modest, thin-strapped tops with acceptable shirt underneath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tube tops • tank tops • halter tops • offensive wording, pictures, or symbols.
SLACKS, CAPRIS, SHORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jeans, cargo pants, knit pants, capris, corduroys • nylon athletic pants • uniform/dress shorts at least fingertip length • bib overalls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pajama style • athletic shorts, or shorts of inappropriate length • sweatpants • leggings under shirts • any frayed hems
SKIRTS, SKORTS, DRESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skirts or dresses no shorter than 3" from top of kneecap • leggings underneath appropriate length skirts and dresses. • skorts fingertip length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any dress or skirt shorter than 3" from top of kneecap. • any skort shorter than fingertips.
FOOTWEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all year round: dress shoes, tennis shoes, athletic shoes • hot weather (1st and 4th quarter only) = may wear sandals, flip-flops, open-toed shoes. • cold weather (2nd and 3rd quarter only) = may wear boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • backless shoe or sandal for recess or PE • sandals, flip-flops, or open-toed shoes during cold weather quarters • wearing indoor boots during hot weather quarters
GROOMING AND ACCESSORIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • neat and clean • nail/toe polish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facial make-up • hats, hoods, caps, bandanas • sunglasses indoors

ELEMENTARY GIRLS Grades 3-5		
CATEGORY	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL CLOTHING.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> neat, modest, appropriate for school environment in good repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tight, clingy, form-fitting faded, holes, frayed, tears.
TOPS <i>Must be modest</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> t-shirts, loose-fitting blouses, shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters sleeveless (at least 3" straps and covers underwear) thin-strapped tops with acceptable shirt underneath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tube tops, halter tops tank tops, thin straps, backless sundress, unless worn with an acceptable shirt/blouse offensive wording, pictures, or symbols. un-tucked shirts that expose skin when arms raised or bending over untucked shirts longer than wrist length
SLACKS, CAPRIS, SHORTS <i>No fading; finished hem</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> jeans, cargo pants, corduroys, khakis dress slacks capris, crops uniform/dress shorts no shorter than 4" above top of knee leggings under appropriate dress or skirt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pajama style athletic shorts, non-uniform shorts, or shorts of inappropriate length sweatpants, knit, or athletic pants leggings under shirts bib overalls, camouflage pants frayed hems
SKIRTS, SKORTS, DRESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> skirts or dresses to top of knee when standing leggings underneath appropriate length skirts and dresses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any dress or skirt shorter than 2" above knee when seated skorts
FOOTWEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all year round: dress shoes, tennis shoes, athletic shoes. hot weather (1st and 4th quarter only) = may wear sandals, flip-flops, open-toed shoes. cold weather (2nd and 3rd quarter only) = may wear boots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> backless shoe or sandal for recess or PE untied laces wearing sandals, flip-flops, or open-toed shoes during 2nd or 3rd quarter. wearing boots 1st or 4th quarter.
HAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dyed hair should be a natural color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extreme or distracting styles or colors
GROOMING AND ACCESSORIES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> neat and clean jewelry simple and in good taste nail polish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hats, hoods, caps, bandanas, sunglasses indoors permanent tattoos outer coats in school building body piercing
P.E. UNIFORM <i>Must be purchased at ECA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> black nylon ECA shorts gray ECA t-shirts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any shorts/shirts other than the approved ECA p.e. uniform

ELEMENTARY BOYS Grades PreK-2		
CATEGORY	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL CLOTHING.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • neat, modest, appropriate for school environment • in good repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • faded, holes, frayed, tears.
SHIRTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dress • casual • t-shirts, collared shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters • proper fitting sports jerseys (sleeveless must have a t-shirt underneath) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offensive wording, pictures, or symbols.
PANTS <i>Finished hems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jeans, cargo pants, corduroy, nylon athletic pants, • uniform/dress shorts at least fingertip length • bib overalls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pajama style • athletic shorts, non-uniform shorts, or shorts of inappropriate length • sweatpants • rips, holes, or tears • frayed hems
FOOTWEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all year round: dress shoes, tennis shoes, athletic shoes • hot weather (1st and 4th quarter only) = may wear sandals, flip-flops, open-toed shoes. • cold weather (2nd and 3rd quarter only) = may wear boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • backless shoe or sandal for recess or PE • wearing sandals, flip-flops, or open-toed shoes during cold weather quarters • wearing boots during hot weather quarters
GROOMING AND ACCESSORIES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • neat and clean • hair should be cut above the collar, to the eyebrows, and no longer than mid-ear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hairstyles that are extreme or disruptive • hats, hoods, caps, bandanas, or sunglasses indoors • earrings, body piercing

ELEMENTARY BOYS Grades 3-5		
CATEGORY	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL CLOTHING.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> neat, modest, appropriate for school environment in good repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tight, clingy, form-fitting faded, holes, frayed, tears.
SHIRTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> t-shirts, Henley style shirts, dress shirts sweatshirt sweaters sports jerseys no longer than wrist-length (sleeveless must have a t-shirt underneath it) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offensive wording, pictures, or symbols. un-tucked shirts that are not straight-edge around bottom or longer than wrist length t-shirts hanging out below sweatshirts or other top shirts rips, holes, or tears sleeveless undersized or oversized shirts
WEARING SHIRTS "in" or "out"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shirts with "tails" must be tucked in shirts with square/straight hems may be left untucked if they are no longer than wrist-length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> untucked shirts that expose skin when arms are raised untucked shirts that extend beyond the wrist
PANTS/SLACKS <i>Finished hem</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> jeans, cargo pants, corduroys, khakis uniform/dress shorts no shorter than 4" from top of knee length to top of foot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pajama style, athletic shorts, non-uniform shorts, or shorts of inappropriate length sweatpants or athletic pants baggy or faded camouflage pants bib overalls rips, holes, frayed, or tears floor length pants
FOOTWEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all year round: dress shoes, tennis shoes, athletic shoes. hot weather (1st and 4th quarter only) = may wear sandals, flip-flops, open-toed shoes. Cold weather (2nd and 3rd quarter only) = may wear boots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> backless shoe or sandal for recess or PE untied laces wearing sandals, flip-flops, or open-toed shoes during 2nd or 3rd quarter. wearing boots 1st or 4th quarter.
GROOMING AND ACCESSORIES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> neat and clean dyed hair should be a natural color hair should be <u>cut</u> above the collar, to the eyebrows, and no longer than mid-ear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extreme or distracting hair styles or colors hats, hoods, caps, bandanas, sunglasses permanent tattoos outer coats in school building earrings, body piercing
P.E. UNIFORM <i>Must be purchased at ECA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> black nylon ECA shorts gray ECA t-shirts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any shorts/shirts other than the approved ECA p.e. uniform

Secondary Girls Grades 6-12		
CATEGORY	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL CLOTHING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> neat, modest, appropriate for school environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tight, clingy, form-fitting, faded, holes, tears, frayed
SHIRTS, BLOUSES, SWEATERS <i>Loose-fitting, no fading Hoods may not be worn in the building</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dress, casual, polo, sleeveless (at least 3" wide straps) and covers underwear Solid or Striped t-shirts All other shirts must have a collar or buttons ECA t-shirts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tops that expose cleavage, midriff, or underwear when standing or bending halter, tube tops, sheer materials tank tops, thin straps, backless sundress, unless worn with an acceptable shirt/blouse t-shirts that are excessively faded or worn-looking t-shirts that are baggy or oversized t-shirts with pictures or designs white undershirts t-shirts with words (other than small logos) camouflage
SWEATSHIRTS <i>Hoods may not be worn in the building</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECA ONLY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other than ECA professional/College team jerseys
PANTS <i>Not worn-looking; finished hem</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dress, khakis, capris, crops, leggings under appropriate dress or skirt Neat denim/jeans bermuda shorts, walking shorts, skorts (knee length or longer) during 1st and 4th quarters only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sweatpants, athletic pants, pajama bottoms, camouflage, bib overalls, athletic shorts, gym shorts, short shorts, leggings under shirts only No rips, holes, frays, or tears
SKIRTS, DRESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no shorter than top of the knee slits no higher than the top of the knee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shorter than two inches above the knee when seated
FOOTWEAR <i>All footwear with laces must be laced</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dress shoes, athletic shoes, sandals, tennis shoes flip flops, athletic sandals (during 1st and 4th quarters only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> slippers, outdoor boots flip flops, athletic sandals during 2nd and 3rd quarters
OUTDOOR WEAR <i>Jackets, hats</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sweaters, jean jackets, fleece jackets, fitted dress jackets, jackets without hoods shirts under jackets must meet dress code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> coats, nylon jackets hats, caps, bandanas sunglasses
HAIR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extreme styles or color
JEWELRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bracelets, necklaces, rings earrings toe rings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no extreme styles
TATTOOS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> once enrolled as a student, NOT permitted
P.E. UNIFORM <i>Must be purchased at ECA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> black nylon ECA shorts gray ECA t-shirts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any shorts/shirts other than the approved ECA p.e. uniform

Secondary Boys Grades 6-12		
CATEGORY	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL CLOTHING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> neat, modest, appropriate for school environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tight, faded, holes, tears, frayed
SHIRTS, SWEATERS <i>Buttoned except top two buttons; not faded</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dress, casual, polo, golf, henley style, turtleneck, mock turtleneck Solid or Striped t-shirts All other shirts must have a collar or buttons ECA t-shirts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tank tops, muscle shirts, athletic jerseys, sleeveless, camouflage baggy or oversized shirts T-shirts that are excessively faded T-shirts with pictures or designs white undershirts T-shirts with words (other than small logos or ECA shirts)
WEARING SHIRTS “in” or “out” <i>Hoods may not be worn in the building</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shirts with “tails” must be tucked in shirts with square/straight hems may be left untucked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> untucked shirts that expose skin or underwear untucked shirts that extend beyond mid-thigh undersized or oversized shirts excessively baggy shirts
SWEATSHIRTS <i>Hoods may not be worn in the building</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECA ONLY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other than ECA professional/College team jerseys
PANTS/SLACKS <i>Not worn-looking or excessive wear and tear; finished hem</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dress, khakis bermuda shorts, walking shorts (knee length or longer) during 1st and 4th quarters only Neat denim/jeans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sweatpants, athletic pants, pajama bottoms, camouflage, bib overalls athletic shorts, gym shorts, short shorts no rips, holes, frays, or tears no sagging of pants undergarments should not be visible
FOOTWEAR <i>All footwear with laces must be laced</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dress shoes athletic shoes, tennis shoes sandals with backs boat shoes, work shoes/boots flip flops, athletic sandals (during 1st and 4th quarters only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> slippers, outdoor boots flip flops, athletic sandals during 2nd and 3rd quarters
OUTDOOR WEAR <i>Jackets, coats</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sweaters, jean jackets, fleece jackets, dress sport coat, shirts under jackets must meet dress code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> coats, nylon jackets hats, caps, bandanas sunglasses
HAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must remain out of eyes, neat and trimmed, clean must be <u>cut</u> above the collar, to the eyebrows, and no longer than mid-ear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extreme styles or color
FACIAL HAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sideburns—bottom of ear clean shaven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unshaven, facial hair
JEWELRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bracelets, necklaces, rings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> earrings no extreme styles
TATTOOS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> once enrolled as a student, NOT permitted

Secondary Boys Grades 6-12		
CATEGORY	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
P.E. UNIFORM <i>Must be purchased at ECA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • black nylon ECA shorts • gray ECA t-shirts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any shorts/shirts other than the approved ECA p.e. uniform

DRESS DOWN DAY GUIDELINES

- | YES | NO |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorts • Sweatpants • Athletic pants • Sweatshirts • T-shirts • Hats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pajama pants • Tight clothing • Inappropriate writing and designs |

DRESS FOR FORMAL OCCASIONS

At ECA, it is our goal to do everything to the honor and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Formal occasions provide opportunities to teach students about the Biblical principles of being appropriate, modest, and neat. It is with this spirit that we sponsor events such as the Alternative, which gives students an opportunity to be part of a classy event without all the negative connotations associated with typical high school proms. Therefore, we want to clearly state the standards required for ECA students attending the Junior/Senior Banquet.

Male Guidelines	Female Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suit or sport coat must be worn • Dress pants are required. • A dress shirt and tie are required. • Standard formal wear is acceptable. • Appropriate dress shoes must be worn (no athletic shoes allowed). • Socks must be worn. • All other aspects of the ECA dress and grooming code apply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neckline must be modest in both front and back. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In front, it must be high enough in front so that cleavage is not exposed whether upright or bending. ○ In back, the neckline should come no lower than the middle of the back or no lower than six inches above the waistline. ○ The opening of the back should reveal only the back. No part of the side should be visible. • All gowns must have some kind of straps over the shoulders. • The hems of dresses and all slits should come no higher than the top of the knee. • No form-fitting, clingy skirts or dresses will be permitted. • Appropriate dress shoes must be worn (no athletic shoes allowed). • Underwear must be worn. • All other aspects of the ECA dress and grooming code apply.

INFRACTION PROCEDURE

The purpose of a dress code is to motivate self-discipline in the areas of modesty, neatness and appropriateness. It is the responsibility of parents to help educate a student in appropriate dress. It is the responsibility of the student to make proper choices which glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the responsibility of teachers to enforce the dress code at ECA.

Elementary students: Teachers of lower elementary students (grades PK-2) will contact parents in the event of dress code infraction instead of speaking directly with the student. When an upper elementary student (grades 3-5) has broken dress code, the teacher will speak to the student concerning the infraction and follow up with the parent.

Secondary students: When the infraction can be corrected immediately (i.e. untucked shirt, etc.), the teacher will speak with the student concerning the infraction and e-mail the dress code monitor. If the dress code infraction cannot be corrected immediately (i.e. short skirts, hair, etc.), the infraction will be handled by the dress code monitor. An accumulation of infractions (per semester) will warrant:

First Infraction:	Written Warning
Second Infraction:	One Detention
Third Infraction:	Two Detentions and conference with parent and student
Fourth Infraction:	Out of School Suspension and all Extra-Curricular Privileges suspended for 3 days.
Fifth Infraction:	Conference with parent and student to discuss student's future as an ECA student

In cases of severe dress code violations (immodesty, etc.), the student will be sent to the secondary office immediately and parents will be notified. The student shall remain in the secondary office until the infraction has been remedied.

Note: If class periods missed because of non-compliance exceed three periods, the periods missed will be considered an in-school suspension.

MISCELLANEOUS

We would also appreciate parents and other family members observing the appropriate dress standards when they come to the school or school functions. Adults chaperoning field trips are to wear appropriate and modest dress.