



DRESS CODE

2024-25 School Year

Vision

Garden City Academy requires students to dress in a clean, modest, and appropriate manner that promotes a culture of excellence and honor.

Guidelines

- ❖ **Clean:** Students will exercise personal hygiene and grooming by keeping themselves neat, washed, and generally presentable. *It's a matter of respecting others.*
- ❖ **Modest:** Students will prioritize character over image, not dressing in a way that's distracting or screams "I need attention." *It's a matter of respecting yourself and God.*
- ❖ **Appropriate:** Students will present themselves in a way that fits the environment, promotes our culture, and eliminates distractions. *It's a matter of respecting the context.*

Exceptions

There may be certain days or events set aside for more formal attire. These dress standards will be communicated to students and parents well in advance.

Enforcement

GCA Administration has sole authority to enforce the dress code and determine violations at their discretion. If a situation in question lacks a clear standard, what they say *is* the standard, without exception. Parents and students are asked to respect this and honor all corrections.

Expulsion

GCA practices a no-tolerance policy. First time offenders will be sent home to change or given school swag for balance of day (if needed for modesty sake). Parents will be contacted and violations explained to ensure understanding. If violations persist, it could result in suspension or expulsion of the student from school.

Explanation

Practically, this dress code means students can wear their own clothes as long as it falls within the general parameters set forth above. GCA is the student's vocation, so families should consider this when choosing attire. Any GCA Farmer attire is allowed and greatly encouraged (let's go Farmers!) See our online [store](#).

Examples

For help with what we mean when we say clean, modest, and appropriate, a few guidelines are provided below. Propriety is not limited to this list, but we hope it gives you the *general idea*. Parents and students are welcome to bring specific questions to GCA administration.



❖ **Clean**

- Examples include showers, deodorant, haircuts, and an orderly appearance.

❖ **Modest**

- Girls will dress in a way that is beautiful and feminine, not sensual and sexy. Generally, no tight-fitting clothes, exposing inappropriate amounts of skin, or drawing unnecessary attention to body parts. Specifically, no tank tops, cleavage, exposed mid-drifts, see-through apparel, leggings/yoga pants, or clothing with crass or profane images or text.
- Boys will dress in a way that is handsome and masculine, not sloppy and careless. Generally, no outlandish dress, baggy clothes, or sagging waistlines. Specifically, hoods stay down indoors, hats are removed when appropriate or requested, and no clothing with crass or profane images or texts.

❖ **Appropriate**

- While we do not require formal attire, casual does not mean sloppy. Generally, no abnormal piercings or radical hair colorings. Specifically, no pajamas, sweats, or gym clothes (ok for workouts, not class) or anything that would be considered inappropriate for a professional environment.

Ethos

GCA's mission is to be an innovative Christian school who partners with parents to disciple learners to think biblically, discern wisely, and live faithfully. How students dress is a great opportunity to do just that.

We want to encourage students and parents to think for themselves and wrestle with all that comes with clothing choices as reflections of our attitude and identity. We call everyone to general principles of godliness and allow families to work out the specifics for themselves.

We understand families will have different aesthetic standards. GCA's goal is to allow as much flexibility and independence as possible while maintaining a common standard of Christian conduct edifying to all.

Dress Codes & Discipleship

We realize this creates a little more work and is not as "clean" as mandatory uniforms. But we're willing to put in the extra effort. We think common sense can prevail. While uniforms may be a quick and easy solution, we don't want to cover up inner problems with external rules. We don't want to hide matters of the heart, we want to expose them and disciple them.

As with all issues of freedom, if this privilege is abused to the point of affecting school culture, we will address it with increased boundaries and structure. It is our hope, however, that this freedom and privilege be taken seriously by all so we can enjoy a distraction-free educational environment.