

## DRESS CODE

Columbus Catholic believes that following an established dress code is an integral part of the preparation of your son/daughter for life in future professional, academic, and religious environments. Faculty and students at Columbus Catholic are expected to dress in a God-pleasing manner with focus on the dignity of the human body. It is Columbus Catholic's expectation that parents will offer proper guidance to their son/daughter in matters of dress. DSP 5690 (Diocesan School Policy 5690) states that the manner of dress helps the student grow in the virtue of modesty which is at the foundation of self-respect and respect of others. It further states that dress codes safeguard & promote the Christian learning environment and that expectations are raised positively when there is a different style of dress for school than for other more casual and relaxed venues. For additional reflection on clothing choices, refer to CCC 2522 (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2522).

The dress code is in effect from the time the students enter the building and remains in effect until their departure. Any exceptions to the dress code will be announced during morning or afternoon announcements. Violations are to be addressed immediately. Students in violation may be asked to change, given detention (for 3 or more violations), and/or have parents notified. The faculty and administration of Columbus Catholic have final determination on the acceptability of student dress in cases where there is a difference of opinion. All clothing should be neat, clean, fit reasonably, be modest, and be in good condition. Student appearance should be neat, well-groomed, and dignified. Please remember that due to growth and frequent washings, clothing that met dress code stipulations in September may not be appropriate later in the year.

### General Items

- Jackets
  - Plain colored or Columbus Catholic fleece/dry-fit collared ¼ zip and full zip jackets may be worn (on Mass days, boys' ties must show)
- Senior Privilege
  - Seniors may wear a sweatshirt/hoodie (NOT T-shirt) of any Catholic university/college on Fridays
  - Seniors may wear a sweatshirt/hoodie (NOT T-shirt) of the university/college to which they have been accepted on Fridays
- Shorts
  - Non-athletic/non-blue jean shorts are acceptable year-round, except on Mass days
  - Shorts must extend to the knee or longer
- Physical Education
  - Shorts must extend to the knee or longer or leggings need to be worn underneath
  - T-shirts cannot be cut, torn, or altered
  - Non-marking athletic shoes are required

### Young Women

- Tops:

- Button-up, blouse, polo, turtleneck, sweater, dress shirt, plain or Columbus crewneck sweatshirt, plain or Columbus hooded sweatshirt
- Shirts must meet modesty standards, especially concerning the midriff, neckline, and backline (cleavage or necklines that go beyond 3 fingers from collarbone front or back), no visible bra straps (bras cannot be visible through shirt material)
- **Pants:**
  - Dress slacks, capris, colored jeans, or cargo pants worn at the natural waistline
- **Dresses/Skirts:**
  - Must have a hemline that extends to the knee or longer
  - If leggings worn underneath, hemline must fall below fingertips
  - Must meet all modesty standards
- **Shoes:**
  - Dress shoes, tennis shoes, or acceptable sandals must be safe and remain on the feet (no flip flops or athletic sandals/slides)
  - Crocs allowed on non-Mass days
- **Hair:**
  - Must be well-groomed, may not be dyed a non-natural color including streaks, and may not be an extreme style
- **MASS DRESS:**
  - Dress slacks (NO colored jeans) or skirt with blouse, dress shirt, or sweater
  - Blouses or dress shirts (must be tucked in, if so designed)
  - Dress

### **Young Men**

- **Tops:**
  - Button-down, dress shirt, polo, collared shirt, sweater, plain or Columbus crewneck sweatshirt, plain or Columbus hooded sweatshirt
- **Pants:**
  - Dress slacks, docker-style, cargo pants, or colored jeans worn at the natural waistline
- **Shoes:**
  - Dress shoes, tennis shoes, or acceptable sandals must be safe and remain on the feet (no flips flops or athletic sandals/slides)
  - Crocs allowed on non-Mass days
- **Hair:**
  - Must be well-groomed, may not be dyed a non-natural color including streaks, and may not be an extreme style
- **MASS DRESS:**
  - Tucked in dress shirt and appropriate length tie must be worn with dress pants, dockers, or khaki pants (no cargo pants or colored jeans)
  - A sports coat/blazer, sweater, sweater vest, or dry-fit zip up may be worn with a shirt and tie (dress shirt collar and tie must be visible)

### **Students may NOT Wear**

- Blue Jeans
- Yoga pants, jeggings, or other tight-fitting pants
- T-shirts with graphics
- Clothing with large brand names/logos/symbols/pictures
  - Brand names/logos/symbols/pictures must be smaller than 3.5"x3"
- Hats or bandanas (hoodie must remain off the head)
- Visible tattoos, writing on hands or arms
- Facial piercings (students should use a clear piercing retainer if necessary)

### **Backpack Policy**

#### **ONLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Backpacks are useful for students as an organizational tool; however, they can be hazardous to teachers who are circulating in their classrooms and are a definite safety hazard if left in the hallways.

- Backpacks are permitted in the high school, but MUST NOT be left in the hallways at any time.
- Backpacks in high school classrooms MUST BE in one of three spots
  - An area designated by the teacher
  - On the back of the chair
  - On the floor beneath the table/desk
- CCMS students must store their backpacks in their lockers.

### **Dress Down Fundraisers**

Dress Down Days are an opportunity for students and faculty to support various charities. Those charities are selected by Mission Club/Student Council. On dress down days, students are allowed to wear clothes outside of the normal dress code, provided they meet the modesty requirements in the dress code above. Clothing must be school appropriate; graphics and/or advertisement of illegal substances, inappropriate or offensive graphics, references to sex, drugs, profanity, racial or ethnic slurs are in violation of dress down guidelines. Jeans cannot have holes or frays and must remain at waist level (no sagging, low rise, low riding pants). Leggings or yoga pants are not permitted, but sweatpants are ok. These guidelines are also used for Final exam protocol. Mission Club and Student Council Advisors, Dean of Students, and Principal reserve the right to modify this statement as necessary and reserve the right to determine what might be disruptive, unsafe, or inappropriate.

### **Semi Formal Dance Dress Code**

#### **Ladies:**

- Skirts/dresses must be no higher than 6 inches from the true knee (this can be measured while dress shopping as the length of a dollar bill when kneeling).

- If movement causes the dress to ride up, it may not go higher than 6 inches from the knee.
- The dress should not have to be pulled down to maintain this measurement expectation.
- If your dress has a slit, the slit must end at 6" above the true knee
- Tops cannot be low cut, revealing or have a deep scoop neckline
- No skin should be visible in the midriff area. This includes sheer and see-through fabrics.
- Cutouts below the waist line are not allowed
- Cutouts should not be larger than the size of your hand
- Jeans, T-shirts, and shorts are not allowed
- Clothing should be clean and presentable – no rips or tears

**Gentlemen:**

- A properly buttoned shirt and tie are required
- Clean, presentable shoes in good condition are required (dress shoes preferred)
- Jeans, T-shirts, and shorts are not allowed
- Clothing should be clean and presentable – no rips or tears