



## COLUMBUS CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESS CODE (REVISED 7.2.20)

Columbus Catholic believes that following an established dress code plays an integral part in the preparation of students 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 a focus on the dignity of the human body. It is Columbus Catholic's expectation that parents/guardians will offer proper guidance and guidance to the students 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 an 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/guardians notified. The faculty and administration of Columbus Catholic have the final determination on the acceptability of student dress in cases where there is a difference of opinion.

### Students May Not Wear

- Blue jeans
- Yoga pants, jeggings, or other tight-fitting pants
- T-shirts (other than the school T-shirt)
- Torn/non-hemmed clothing
- Clothing/accessories with large brand names/logos/symbols/pictures
  - (Brand names/logos/symbols/pictures must be smaller than 3.5"x3".)
- Shirts that expose the midriff, are sheer, or expose the back or shoulders
  - (Sheer overlays may be worn with a tank top, provided requirements are met.)
- Hats or bandanas
- Slippers
- Flip-flops (any footwear with a strip of material between the big and first toe which lacks an ankle and/or heel strap) or athletic sandals
- Crocs are not permitted on Mass days.
- Visible undergarments
- Exposed boxers
- Visible bra straps
- Undershirt extending past clothing
- Racerback or spaghetti strap tops (lasagna straps ok)
- Visible tattoos or writing on hands or arms

A good rule of thumb: if clothing makes someone else (student or staff) uncomfortable, it is not meeting modesty standards **and the student will be sent to the Dean for appropriate apparel.**

## **School Apparel**

- The designated school T-shirt may be worn on any normal day of school.
- Columbus Catholic sweatshirts & “hoodies” may be worn on any normal school day.
- Names may not be inscribed across the buttocks (including those from previous years).
- Approved team T-shirts designated for that season may be worn on game days (not including Mass days).
- Wearing non-approved team shirts will result in the loss of team apparel privileges for the rest of the season.

## **Jackets**

- Jackets are acceptable with the permission of the teacher due to room temperature.
- Students wearing shorts will not be allowed to wear jackets.

## **Shorts**

- Non-athletic shorts are acceptable except in the months of November, December, January, February, and March.
- Shorts must extend to the knee or below.

## **Physical Education**

- Shorts must extend to the knee or below or leggings need to be worn underneath.
- T-shirts cannot be cut, torn, or altered.
- Yoga and other tight-fitting pants are not allowed.
- Non-marking athletic shoes are required.

## **Young Women**

- **Shirts:**
  - Button-up, blouse, polo, turtleneck, sweaters, or other dress shirts (not tight)
  - Shirts must meet modesty standards especially concerning the neckline and backline (no cleavage or necklines that go beyond 4 fingers from collarbone front or back) and have no visible bra straps (bras cannot be visible through shirt material).
  - If a top is a sheer overlay, a tank top meeting the requirements above needs to be worn underneath.
- **Pants:**
  - Dress slacks, capris (mid-calf length, khaki, docker-style or cargo pants worn at the natural waistline)
- **Dresses/Skirts:**
  - Must have a hemline that extends to the knee or below. (Front and back)
  - Must meet all modesty standards in regards to the neckline, backline, midriff, and tightness when worn
- **Shoes:**
  - Dress shoes, tennis shoes, or acceptable sandals must be safe and remain on the feet.
- **Hair:**
  - Hair may not be dyed a non-natural color (including streaks) or be an unnatural style.

## **Mass Dress for the Young Women**

- Dress slacks with a blouse or dress shirt
- A skirt with a blouse or dress shirt
- Dress
- Dress shoes, dress flats, or dress sandals must be worn on Mass days (solid colored canvas shoes are permitted).
- **No athletic shirts or Columbus Catholic sweatshirts/hoodies/fleece may be worn at any time on Mass days without permission.**

## **Young Men**

- **Shirts:**
  - Button-up, other dress shirts, polo, or collared shirts
  - Shirts must be tucked in if so designed.
- **Sweaters:**
  - Crew-neck, V-neck
- **Pants:**
  - Dress slacks, docker-style, or cargo pants worn at the natural waistline
- **Shoes:**
  - Dress shoes, tennis shoes, or acceptable sandals must be safe and remain on the feet.
- **Hair:**
  - Hair may not be dyed a non-natural color or be an unnatural style and must be well-groomed.

## **Mass Dress for the Young Men**

- **Tucked in** shirt and appropriate length tie must be worn with dress, docker, or khaki pants (no cargo pants).
- A sports coat/blazer, dress sweater, or sweater vest may be worn with a shirt and tie.
- **No athletic shirts or Columbus Catholic sweatshirts/hoodies/fleece may be worn at any time on Mass days without permission.**

## **Additional Comments**

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.

## **Backpacks**

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 must be left in the lockers during the school day.

## **Mission Club Dress Down Fundraisers**

Dress Down Days are an opportunity for students and faculty to support various charities. Those charities are selected by Mission Club. On dress-down days, students are allowed to wear clothes outside of the normal dress code, provided they are meeting the shoulder, midriff, and hemline requirements in the dress code above, and are school appropriate. Leggings are not permitted but sweatpants are ok.

Jeans cannot have holes or frays and must remain at waist level (no sagging, low rise, or low riding pants). T-shirts must be school appropriate; graphics and/or advertisements of illegal substances, inappropriate or offensive graphics, references to sex, drugs, profanity, racial or ethnic slurs are in violation of tees and jeans guidelines.

*Mission Club 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.*