

2024-2025 Bethlehem Academy Dress Code Expectations

Bethlehem Academy is committed to advocating for the dignity of every person within our school community while also providing a set of expectations that promotes a positive learning environment that is in keeping with our mission and values as a Dominican Catholic school.

Cooperation is key to the implementation of a non-uniform dress code. Being in dress code is a requirement for attending school. Students should dress in a neat, clean and modest manner that is appropriate for a school setting. As a general guideline, if you do not know whether something is appropriate attire, please do not wear it to school.

The list below is not exhaustive, and questions concerning the interpretation of the dress code will be resolved by the administration.

Student expectations:

- Student outfits should not require regular adjustment to abide by the dress code.
- Shirts must extend to the edge of the shoulder and to the top of pants.
- Skirts or dresses must be mid-thigh or longer.
- Sweatpants are not acceptable.
- Tights and tight-fitting pants such as yoga pants, leggings, or similar pants may be worn under a skirt or dress of appropriate length.
- Shorts may be worn before MEA and following spring break. Shorts must be dress or Bermuda/cargo style shorts, mid-thigh or longer, with sewn hems. No athletic shorts, cut-offs, or biking shorts.
- Clothing should not be sheer, midriff-baring, low cut, or reveal undergarments.
- No intentional or unintentional ripped or torn clothes.
- Hoods and/or hats may not be worn during the school day.
- Clothing, accessories, or grooming in a manner that represents and/or promotes inappropriate messages, politics, political candidates, drugs, alcohol, tobacco or other illegal substances, violence, threats, gangs, hate groups, or anything that is overly distracting to the school community or counter to our mission as a Dominican Catholic school are prohibited.
- Bare or stocking/sock feet and slippers are not permitted. Flip-flops and sandals may be worn before MEA and following spring break. For safety reasons, appropriate footwear (tennis shoes, closed toe shoes) must be worn in PE classes and in the woodshop or science labs.
- Hair styles, highlights, braids, and extensions must be of a natural color.

Mass/Dress Up Days:

Mass is a time of reverence and respect for God and our dress should reflect that. On Mass and other days designated as dress-up days additional dress expectations are as follows:

- As with our regular dress code, student outfits should not require regular adjustment or be ripped, torn, sheer, midriff-baring, low cut, or reveal undergarments.
- Boys must wear shirts with sleeves and a collar. Girls may wear a dressy top with sleeves or a top or dress that extends to the edge of the shoulder.
- Sweaters and crewneck sweatshirts may be worn; boys should ensure that a shirt collar is visible. No hoodie shirts, sweaters, or sweatshirts.
- Students should wear nice pants or dresses/skirts of appropriate length (mid-thigh or longer). No blue jeans, sweatpants, athletic/warm-up pants, or shorts.

Dress Code Consequences:

Students will be sent to the office and referred to administration to determine if out of dress code. If so, a dress code violation will be issued. A student may be asked to change clothes. Options include borrowing from the school's supply of clothing or calling parents/guardians to provide alternate clothing.

- **First Offense:** Dress code violation issued.
- **Second Offense:** Dress code violation issued. Parents/guardians emailed.
- **Third Offense:** Dress code violation issued. Parents/guardians emailed. Detention assigned.
- **Fourth & Subsequent Offense:** Dress code violation issued. Detention assigned.
Parent/guardian conference with administration.

When the school has special dress theme days for Homecoming, SnoBall, and other school spirit days, students should wear the themed attire or come to school in the normal dress code.