

Denver Lutheran High School - DRESS and PERSONAL APPEARANCE

The dress code at Denver Lutheran High School insists on neat, clean, modest, and appropriate apparel. Students who follow these guidelines can take joy and delight in diversity and individuality. Appropriate school dress is “business casual” - somewhere between “dress up” and “recreational.”

The school’s dress guidelines provide an opportunity to learn an important Christian concept: living in Christ’s freedom by considering the rights and feelings of others. Scripture tells us to show love and consideration for others in “all things” -- Romans 14. In applying this precept to dress and personal appearance it is concluded that one must never wear clothing that offends others, makes them feel uncomfortable, or tempts them to sin.

Some fashion trends or fads are not appropriate for school. A discerning Christian student should recognize which trends are not God pleasing.

A student who is making a decision as to whether his/her clothing is appropriate, should ask, “Am I doing this to God’s glory?” All clothing must reflect Christian modesty. A provocative and/or distracting appearance is neither appropriate nor conducive to the learning environment.

Denver Lutheran High understands that dress guidelines will always create gray areas of interpretation. Therefore, it is important that the “spirit of the code” always control the “letter of the code.” Students are expected to present a positive spirit of cooperation toward the intent of the guidelines.

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

Appropriate school dress is expected when students are on campus. During school-sponsored events (home or away), such as athletic contests, concerts, drama performances and the like, students are expected to meet the guidelines of neat, clean, modest and appropriate dress. No clothing should be torn, ripped, frayed, cutoff, or have holes. At events and other extracurricular activities, more casual attire may be acceptable to the school supervisor.

The following guidelines define appropriate dress:

1. Shirts/Tops

Shirts can be any style provided that they fit properly, are clean, in good repair (hemmed, not frayed), and reflect Christian modesty.

All shirts and tops must have sleeves. Therefore, tank tops, muscle shirts, sleeveless blouses and clothing with spaghetti straps are not to be worn at school. During physical education classes or practices more casual dress may be appropriate. (Sleeveless dresses are permitted if modestly cut and undergarments are not visible.)

Some screen-printed “artwork” on shirts/tops is not acceptable. Not acceptable artwork would include:

skulls/skeletons	flames	bands/rock music/concerts
peace signs	face portraits	weapons
alcohol	pubs/bars/taverns	scantily clad females/males
video games-characters/logos	comic strips-characters/logos	cartoon characters
tv/movies-characters/logos	Snakes/serpents	inappropriate products

Acceptable artwork would include artwork surrounding manufacturer’s logos, other product logos, college and professional teams, and locations (cities, states, countries, tourist sites, etc.).

Tie-dye and other homemade shirts are not acceptable.

Camouflage is not acceptable.

Printed messages (wording designed to convey a message) on clothing are NOT acceptable for school wear. Examples of printed messages would include "Just do it" or "Peace" or "I love my Principal." Exceptions will be made for clothing with:

- a. Denver Lutheran High School logos/messages
- b. Christian messages
- c. College and university logos
- d. Manufacturers' logos (example: "Abercrombie," or "Nike Athletics")
- e. Professional or college teams and logos
- f. Locations (example: Jackson Hole, Wyoming)
- g. Other brand names or merchandise (example: "Dr. Pepper")

Professional, college, or high school (unless DLHS) jerseys are not acceptable.

Examples of Acceptable tops:



Examples of Not Acceptable tops:



Message



Message



Jersey



Camouflage



Skull



Portrait



Cartoon



Movie



Video Game



Comics



Cartoon



Comics/Movie

2. All pants must be worn at the waist, may not be slit up the seam at the bottom, and may not drag on the floor.

Pants may not have more than three zippers.

Note: Males who wear jeans designed for females or designed to look like female jeans should note that they must be worn at the waist.

3. Visually, shorts must fit properly and be at least fingertip length. If a question arises concerning the length of a pair of shorts – the inseam must be at least 3 inches long.
4. Military style clothing, such as fatigues, may not be worn at school. This includes all forms of camouflage.
5. Footwear must be clean, in good repair, and tied. Cleats/spikes are never to be worn inside the building.
6. Winter coats, jackets, and trench coats are not allowed.

Light outerwear, including hooded sweatshirts (pullover or zipped), sweaters (pullover or cardigan), blazers, and light fleece wear ARE acceptable. The same rules that govern what is acceptable on shirts/tops also apply to outerwear.

DLHS letter jackets or team jackets MAY be worn during the school day.

7. Other unacceptable items include:
 - a. Hats, head coverings, or sunglasses during school hours
 - b. Clothing which promotes/advertises any bands, vocalists, concert groups, or record labels
 - c. Patches on any type of clothing
 - d. Clothing with logos/advertisements of harmful or illegal products or services
 - e. Clothing that makes references to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, sex, or gangs
 - f. Clothing, jewelry, and accessories which make reference to beliefs or ideas contrary to the truth of the Holy Scriptures -- neither may any of these beliefs/ideas be displayed on personal possessions such as notebooks, backpacks and the like
 - g. Unacceptable clothing under other garments

- h. Cutoff shorts, athletic shorts, or sweatpants of any kind (including windsuit pants)
- i. Visible tattoos
- j. Wallet chains or other non-necklace chains
- k. Non-bracelet wristbands or cuffs

MALES

The following guidelines further detail appropriate dress for Males:

1. Males should be clean-shaven, with the exception of neatly trimmed mustaches and goatees. The area of the face -between the end of the sideburn (see #2) and the chin goatee must be clean-shaven.
2. Sideburns should not extend below the earlobe.
3. Hairstyles should reflect careful grooming and should not extend past the bottom of the collar on a collared shirt.
4. Extreme/bizarre hairstyles (Mohawks, etc.) are not allowed.
5. Hair should have no unnatural coloring.
6. Ponytails and pigtails are not allowed.
7. Earrings are permissible, but they must be removed if they are hazardous for certain activities.

FEMALES

The following guidelines further detail appropriate dress for Females:

1. Shorts should be modest, appropriate in length (visually: fingertip length or at least a 3-inch inseam) and fit properly.
2. Dresses and skirts must not be more than 3 inches above the top of the kneecap.
3. Tight-fitting leggings must be covered with a top of appropriate length (finger tip).
4. Short shirts that expose the midsection are not acceptable. If a shirt that is designed to be worn untucked is too short to cover a student's midriff or back, then an undershirt that is completely tucked in must be worn under the shirt. At no time, including while sitting or with arms raised should the midriff or back show.
5. Low-cut tops are not acceptable. The guideline for acceptable neckline is simply, "No visible cleavage."
6. Sleeveless dresses are permitted if modestly cut and undergarments are not visible.
7. Cosmetics should be used in moderation and good taste.
8. Extreme/bizarre hairstyles (Mohawks, etc.) are not allowed.
9. Hair should have no unnatural coloring.

Female staff personnel will assist in determining if the neckline and length of a female student's apparel is in keeping with Christian modesty.

PIERCINGS

Males are allowed to have one piercing in the lobe of each ear.

Females may have multiple piercings in each ear lobe. Piercings in other parts of the ear are not allowed.

Students cannot wear piercing jewelry in any other visible area of the body with the exception of the ear lobe. This includes tongue, eyebrow, nose, and lip piercings. Students may not cover a piercing with a band-aid. Students who choose to become pierced during the school year will not be allowed to attend school with a bandage until the piercing is "able to be removed."

This rule applies to any time a student is on the DLHS campus, including before and after school, games and events, Saturday events, Field Day, etc. Furthermore, this rule also applies to school events that take place off-campus at which a school official or administrator is present, including away athletic contests, dances, field trips, service projects, etc.

The consequences for breaking the DLHS piercing rule are as follows:

1. A detention will be issued on the first offense.
2. Every subsequent offense will result in a Level B consequence.

Special dress-up days that are approved by the Principal (Homecoming, spirit weeks, etc.) may allow for "breaking" the dress code.

Denver Lutheran High School encourages the rule of "common sense." If you are not sure that an article of clothing meets the expectations of the school, ask before you wear it!

VIOLATING DRESS CODE

All members of the Denver Lutheran High School community (students, parents, teachers, and administrators) share in the responsibility for implementation of these guidelines. Students whose dress is inappropriate for the situation will be sent to the Principal immediately. A student will not be allowed back to class unless he/she is in accordance with the dress code.

The consequences of being out of dress code are as follows:

1. First Offense: The student will be detained with the Principal until the situation is corrected. If the student cannot become in accordance with the dress code in an appropriate amount of time, a detention may be given for an unexcused absence.
2. Second Offense: In addition to #1, the student will be issued a detention.
3. Third Offense: In addition to #1, the student will be issued a detention.
4. Fourth Offense and any following offense: The student will automatically be moved up one step in the disciplinary step system.

These consequences are accumulated over the course of the school year, not by semester.