

Wardrobe and Grooming

In an effort to model the biblical principles of modesty, build a community where all can pursue growth and learning without distraction, and be respectful to our school environment, we have set appearance standards for Trinity Oaks Christian Academy. As a school that seeks to exist for God's glory, it is important that we meet those standards in every aspect of our school culture. Trinity Oaks strives to maintain a positive and professional learning environment. Consequently, our appearance should encourage concentrated study and should in no way distract us from the learning process. Therefore, our Wardrobe is defined by two specific standards: modesty and professionalism.

Modesty

First and foremost, a student's appearance should reflect their identity as a follower of Christ. Everything we do is an expression of our relationship with God. In His Word, the Bible, God makes it clear that we are to be modest and treat our bodies with the utmost respect. Students' appearance should also reflect the Christian value of encouraging the focus on the inner self, not the outer. It is also important to note that what is "in style" is not always in accordance with the standards we seek to reflect. However, as Christians, we are called to be "different than the world." Therefore, we have some basic guidelines that we expect students will meet in accordance with these biblical standards. The standards of modesty should always be reflected in a student's dress.

- The general guideline for the length of skirts and dresses is that they must be modest and **knee length** in the front and back. Skirts and dresses worn with tights or solid-colored leggings should also meet these guidelines and must always be modest.
- Shorts may be worn 1st and 4th quarters. Shorts may be no more than 2" above the knee in the front and back.
- Collared shirts must be worn. Appropriate choices are polo-style shirts without graphics or text, dress/oxford shirts with collars, blouses with collars (for girls), turtleneck shirts/sweaters or crewneck sweaters with a collared shirt underneath, or collared ¼ zip sweaters with a cami or undershirt.
- Girls should take care to ensure tops are not plunging or revealing at the neckline.
- Sleeveless shirts/tops for either girls or boys are not acceptable school attire.
- TOCA hoodies are only allowed on Spirit Wear days.
- Jeans (of any color), khakis, cargo pants, and dress pants are permitted, but must not be frayed or torn.
- Pants may not be constructed of knit fabric. They must have pockets and should not be constructed in an overall style that is too tight or body shape revealing. Under no circumstances are leggings considered pants.
- Skintight fitting garments or oversized garments of any nature are not appropriate (this includes jeggings and any knit material).
- Clothing should completely cover undergarments and necessary parts of the body at all times (this would include while sitting or bending over). Boys and girls both should take care to wear modest

clothing styles that consistently cover their midsections while standing or sitting in a normal posture. All pants must sit at the natural waistline, and no torso skin can be exposed in any posture.

- Formal Event Dress Standards: While our typical school wardrobe is not in effect at formal events, the principle of modesty remains the guiding standard for dress at these events. This includes selecting a dress that is appropriate in length, as well as providing appropriate coverage and is not low cut or plunging at the neckline. For formal events dresses must have straps.

Professional

We want students to be comfortable, but we also expect that a Trinity Oaks student's appearance should meet basic standards. As a learning community committed to excellence, we desire to wear clothes that are appropriate and create this type of learning environment. It is important to note that these standards do not involve morality; rather they are preferences that Trinity Oaks seeks to uphold in our school community.

- All clothing should be clean and in good repair. Clothing with holes, patches or ragged/frayed ends may not be worn. This includes clothes that are designed with frayed/ragged ends or holes.
- Students should wear clothing as it is traditionally designed to be worn.
- Athletic attire, which includes shorts and sweatpants, are not acceptable outside of P.E. class, practices, or rehearsals.
- Any clothing or personal appearance that tends to call undue attention to the individual is not acceptable.
- Hair should look neat and natural. Any hairstyle, hair color, or head appearance, which includes, but is not limited to, unnatural coloring, Mohawks, or designs shaved into heads, that tends to call undue attention is not acceptable. Hair should always be out of the eyes, regardless of how it is kept or worn, neatly trimmed, and well-groomed. Boys' hair should be cut so that it is naturally off the collar. However, the school does not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists. Any facial hair must be well groomed and non-distracting.
- Boys may not wear earrings to school. Tattoos or "body art" are not appropriate if visible. Piercings (including the nose, lip, eyebrow, and anything other than earrings for girls) are not appropriate. Students who have such piercings will be required to remove their body jewelry when they arrive at school or put in an invisible spacer during the school day.
- Hats, hoods, bandanas, etc. are not to be worn inside during the school day.
- Shoes (closed front and back) are required.
- Students may not wear styles or decorations that are not appropriate for Trinity Oaks, including pajama-style clothing, etc.

Special Days

- **Formal Chapel:** 1st Day of School, Grandparents' Day, Veteran's Day, Christmas Gift Chapel, National Day of Prayer, and Honors Convocation. Additional days may be announced during the school year.
 - Girls –
 - Dress (no spaghetti straps or strapless – **knee length** in the front and back)
 - **OR** Skirt (knee length in the front and back) and blouse.
 - A sleeveless dress must be worn with a cardigan or jacket covering the entire shoulder.
 - **No athletic shoes.**
 - Boys –
 - Oxford shirt
 - Tie (traditional necktie or bowtie)
 - Pants (no jeans or shorts)
 - Belt
 - Socks, dress
 - **No athletic shoes.**
 - Shirts must be tucked in, and ties worn all day.
- **Spirit Wear Days:** Students may wear any top that is branded with Trinity Oaks on Spirit Wear days along with wardrobe appropriate jeans or bottoms.
- **Theme Days:** Occasionally there will be special theme days throughout the school year. School modesty guidelines apply.

Jeans restrictions:

- Dark blue/indigo color only
- Straight leg or conservative boot cut – no flared, designer jeans
- No low rise/hip huggers – jeans must have a natural waistline.
- No flowers, decorative stitching or accessorizing on legs or pockets.
- Jean shorts must be a traditional cut and no more than 2" above the knee.
- No frayed, torn, patched or jeans with holes allowed.
- No jeggings

Responsibility of Parents

- Parents should work with and guide their children to make good choices in appropriate clothing and good grooming. We expect appropriate clothing and appearance decisions to be handled at home to ensure compliance with Trinity Oaks' standards.
- Because it is updated regularly to reflect current styles and trends, parents should review and familiarize themselves with the Wardrobe Policy on an annual basis.
- Should your child's attire be deemed inappropriate, parents should expect to receive a call from the school and be prepared to bring a change of clothing.
- To set a good example for students and others who may be visiting our school, parents are respectfully requested to refrain from wearing abbreviated leisure and exercise attire, plunging necklines, halter tops, or tight and revealing clothing of any kind when visiting the school, no matter how brief the visit may be.

Enforcement

Each student will be held responsible for his/her appearance. Instances of deviation from established standards will be handled justly on an individual basis. The teacher will address the violation with the student, and the student will go to the office to call parents for a change of clothing if necessary. Should circumstances prohibit a change of clothing being brought from home, students will be provided the opportunity to look for appropriate garments in our wardrobe resale room.

Our goal at TOCA is not to inconvenience parents at home or at work during the school day, therefore parents should make themselves familiar with the Wardrobe Policy and ensure that their child is appropriately dressed before leaving home each day. Parents' support for the natural process of consequential decisions by students is greatly appreciated and helpful in the maturation process. Repeated instances of dress code violations will be seen as a sign of disrespect and will result in consequences.