

ALAMANCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Preschool and Elementary Code of Conduct (From ACS Student Handbook) July 2010

For the 2010-2011 School Year

Preschool and Elementary Code of Conduct

8. Dress Guidelines

8.1 General Guidelines

Indicative of a Christian's esteem for his testimony are his attitude, his actions and his appearance. In the area of appearance, the Bible offers at least three guidelines for Christians. **Modesty:** Christians are admonished to dress in a manner that personifies the principle that we are the temple of God. Our dress should show sensitivity to the spiritual well-being of those who see us; it should reflect a desire to glorify God in a manner that is not vain, boastful, bold or forward (I Tim. 2:9; II Tim. 2:22). **Distinction:** Failure to dress in a manner that honors God's obvious distinction between men and women is an "abomination to the Lord (Deut. 22:5; I Cor. 11: 14, 15). **Identification:** God expects His people to declare plainly through their appearance that they are "seeking a country" and that, while they are in the world, they are not of the world (I Tim. 4:12; Rom. 12:1, 2; I John 2:15, 16; Heb. 11:13, 14). **No matter where a family or an institution "draws the line" for dress guidelines, it will be up for debate.** The selection of the dress guidelines for our grade K-6 students may seem arbitrary to some, but, *while not condemning those who may disagree with us, we believe that the guidelines are conducive to creating an academic and moral atmosphere that will enhance the education and edification of children from Christian homes.* In that it is impossible to cover every area that might pose a problem; we reserve the right to ask that students not wear particular items that detract from the "class atmosphere." We are confident that a majority of our school family sees the connection between actions and appearance as they impact the atmosphere of the school, and what is accomplished in the lives of our students.

Special note concerning Abercrombie and Fitch clothing:

A & F has crossed the line of decency to soft porn in their marketing strategies and therefore students are not permitted to wear clothing that advertises this brand in any way.

8.2 Preschool and Kindergarten

Girls: Girls may wear pants, dresses, shorts and skorts (mid thigh length). Dresses need to have a sleeve – no spaghetti straps or halter tops - and be of appropriate fit and length – no higher than 2 inches above the knee. We ask that the girls wear shorts under dresses so that they are modest during playtime. Imprinted tops should not glorify the world with pictures of movie stars, rock or country singers, or questionable establishments. Hair is to be kept neat and conservatively styled.

Boys – Boys may wear long or short pants (mid thigh length). T-Shirts and collared shirts with sleeves are acceptable. Shirts need not be tucked in unless it has a tail. Imprinted tops should not glorify the world with pictures of movie stars, rock or country singers, or questionable establishments. Boy's hair must be closely trimmed, tapered, with hair off the ears, off the collar, and above the eyebrows.

Clothing that does not fit into the spiritual and educational atmosphere of ACS should not be worn. The administration reserves the right to make judgments concerning styles and clothing not specifically addressed in the handbook.

8.3 Elementary (Grades 1 through 6)

8.3.1 General: Fads that become educational distractions are not acceptable as classroom attire. Outdoor coats and jackets are not to be worn in the classroom unless unusual circumstances dictate otherwise; however, sweaters are fine for classroom wear.

8.3.2 Girls: No shorts, jeans, culottes, or faded/"worn-looking" material for the classroom, please. Kindergarten girls may wear pants due to their afternoon nap time. Girls in grades 1-6 may wear skirts and dresses and pants that adhere to the given standard written below.

Girls may wear nice looking casual pants to school on Monday, Tuesday and Friday only. **These may not include jeans of any color, wind pants, or sweat pants (capris – mid calf or longer - are permitted).** Pants should not be made of "stretch" material that makes them form fitting or of thin revealing fabric. Please help us keep our girls looking modest and also in keeping with the generally accepted norms in Christian homes and churches represented in our student body.

Culottes and walking shorts that adhere to the dress guidelines, and loose-fitting slacks, sweat pants, or warm-ups are fine for physical education class, day care and organized extra-curricular activities. (Soccer-style shorts and jeans have consistently posed problems in the past.) A PE-type T-shirt or sweatshirt for cold weather is fine. No tank tops, halter tops, or midriff shirts. **Tops must have a sleeve. Low cut tops must have a tank top (not a camisole) worn underneath for modesty. Tops should be no lower than the width of the wearer's four fingers below the collar bone.** Girls should wear dresses of appropriate fit and length--no higher than two inches above the knee in grades 1 to 3 to allow for growth spurts; middle of the knee for grades 4 to 7. Girls in grade 1 to 3 may wear "skorts" of appropriate fit that come no higher than two inches above the knee. Modest tops (neckline, armholes, tightness) that are neat and feminine are to be worn (I Tim. 2:9, 10; I Peter 3:1-5) No imprinted tops are to be worn which glorify the world (TV or movie stars, rock or country singers, questionable establishments or products, etc.). Hair is to be kept neat and conservatively styled (I Cor. 11:15). Bangs, if worn, should be above the eyebrows, and longer hair styled or fastened to keep it out of the eyes. Make-up, if used at all by upper elementary or junior high girls, should present a "natural appearance" and not draw undue attention. Tennis shoes, flip flops, and sandals are acceptable footwear for girls. **"Heelies" may not be worn to school.**

8.3.3 Boys: Boys must have closely trimmed, tapered, conventional haircuts (no "whitewalls," "sidestripes," or "bowl" cuts), including hair off the ears, off the collar and above the eyebrows. Boys' school clothes should consist of neat looking pants (including blue jeans but no athletic apparel), and button-up shirts, turtle necks, neat sweatshirts, sweaters or *dressy* pull-over shirts with a band type collar and T-shirts. *No plain white T-shirts.* No imprinted tops which glorify the world (TV or movie stars, rock or country singers, entertainers, questionable establishments or products, etc.). Shirts with defined tails are to be tucked in. Rounded bottomed shirts need not be tucked in. Socks are to be worn (except in sandals) and shoes shined (if applicable). Neat tennis shoes and shoes with a back strap (i.e. sandals) are permissible; however, multi-cleated athletic shoes are not acceptable school attire as they track too much dirt into the buildings. Boys should try to avoid shoes that leave marks on the floor. "Heelies" may not be worn to school. Boys are not to wear earrings. Necklaces are permitted as long as they hang no longer than one hand width below the collar bone and have no pendants or ornaments. Bermuda-type shorts to the top of the knee, jams, sweat pants or warm-ups are fine for physical education class, day care and organized extra-curricular activities. A PE-type shirt or sweatshirt for cold weather is fine. No tank tops or midriff shirts.

Boys in elementary are permitted to wear knee length shorts to school for the months of August, September and October. Shorts must be knee length, in a neat Bermuda or cargo style, made of cotton or cotton blend with either elastic or belted waistband. These shorts may not include any athletic type short, or be made of nylon or stretchy type material, knits, or sweat pant material

When a student's dress does not conform to the dress code the parents will be notified of the infraction and asked to correct the situation.

9. Behavior and Discipline Guidelines

Some keys to being "a cut above the crowd--"

- Be on time.
- Treat authority figures with respect.
- Do your very best.
- Dress "up" and not "down."

9.1 Philosophy

ACS students constitute a school family. Every family must have guidelines to ensure orderliness, direction, cooperation and accomplishment (I Cor. 14:40). The behavior of individual students affects others and also reflects favorably or unfavorably upon the family name of the school (Prov.22:1). We, therefore, request the help of parents to ensure that their child refrains from any conduct away from school which may bring a reproach upon the Lord, his family or his school.

9.3 Conduct

9.3.1 Entertainment: Everything that we receive visually or audibly, especially what we voluntarily take in as entertainment, works to create the moral climate for all our thinking and behaving. For this reason, it is vital that the moral absolutes of God's holy law as summarized in the Ten Commandments be conscientiously applied as the standard by which all entertainment is measured to determine its moral value. Even though God's law can neither justify the ungodly nor condemn the justified, it stands as the final standard of what is right and what is wrong. Furthermore, it is God's purpose that the righteousness of the law be worked out in the lives of His children by the enablement of the Holy Spirit (Rom.8:3,4). It is crucial that believers judge each aspect of their living by God's law. This is particularly essential with respect to entertainment because of the availability of questionable material in movies, cassettes, and television. Any presentation which either violates the principles of the Ten Commandments or which portrays their violation in a favorable light is itself sin against God and must be avoided (I Jn. 3:4). This covers such common evils as taking God's Name in vain, making light of God's holy things, physical violence, vengeful attitudes (Matt. 5:21, 22), fornication (including words, music, gestures, and dress which suggest fornication--Matt. 5:27, 28), thievery, deceit, and all which makes for covetousness. Video and audio presentations are not necessarily evil; however, all that violates the moral law of God is evil and is forbidden (I Thes. 5:22; Rom. 12:21; 13:14). The close application of God's holy standard often results in painful *self-denial* in areas that may be *naturally appealing*. Dying to sin and living for God are results of that repentance and righteousness which belong to God's great salvation (Rom. 8:13; Eph. 4:20-24). **Let us never forget that Christ came to save us from our sins and to make us holy** (Matt. 1:21; Rom. 6:2, 4, 6, 22; I Jn.3:5-10). Therefore, in accord with all which God commands in Scripture and all which Christ has accomplished, it is required that the use of all forms of video entertainment (and audio as well) be regulated by the Word of God. With these Biblical principles in view, we simply ask parents to make careful moral judgments as to the entertainment which they approve for their children (I Cor. 10:31; Psalm 101:2, 3). The discovery of consistent violations of God's law in this or any other area will be construed as willful rebellion against God and for that reason must result in discipline (Prov. 28:13; 19:25; 21:11; 22:10; II Thes. 3:14, 15).

9.3.2 Attitude: Students are expected to manifest a submissive attitude. A critical, sarcastic, flippant, generally uncooperative or destructive spirit will not be tolerated. Students exhibiting such negative influences, or who are found to be out of harmony with the general school atmosphere, will subject themselves to dismissal.

9.3.3 Honesty: No cheating, stealing, or other forms of dishonesty will be allowed. Any offender will be subject to discipline including expulsion.

9.3.4 Music: Worldly music--whether rock, country, or popular--that has immoral, degrading, violent lyrics or rhythms is to be avoided (Phil. 4:8; II Cor. 7:1; Col.3:1-3; Titus 2:12-14; James 4:4; I Peter 2:9).

9.3.5 Procedural Guidelines

- * Students should not be out of their seats without permission (I Cor. 14:40).
- * Students must not speak out during class without advance permission (I Thes. 4:11).
- * Students must always respond to authority with respect (I Thes. 5:12, 13)
- * Students should maintain Christian standards in courtesy and kindness (Phil. 2:3-5; Matt. 7:12; I Thes. 5:11).

9.3.6 Property and Horseplay: Student respect for the appearance and care of our school property is very important; therefore, sitting on desks or tables, defacing school property, throwing objects, littering, etc., is not permitted. Disorderly conduct (running, shoving in the classrooms or hallways, rough-housing or horseplay) is not conducive to self-control and can lead to destruction of property and/or injury; therefore, it cannot be tolerated.

9.8 Stealing

In addition to receiving demerits/tallies, students found guilty of stealing will make reasonable restitution (Exodus 22:1-4). Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or valuables to school. If it is necessary to bring more money than is needed for lunch, consider leaving it with the teacher, or, in the case of high school students, with the office. Although we will do our best to protect students' property, the school cannot be held accountable for unattended items that have been stolen.

9.10 Discipline System (Grades K-6)

9.10.1 Tally System - H.O.W. I. A.C.T. :

The Tally System is a method of addressing and recording student misbehavior in a way that allows the child, the teacher and the child's parents to see areas where the child needs to develop more self-control. Teachers on the various grade levels will hand out specific guidelines during the first week of school that pertain to their class. Parents are encouraged to praise their child if few or no tallies are received. When considered by themselves, some tallies can seem "picky;" however, *it is vital for parents to understand that a major purpose of the tally system is to make them aware of **patterns** in their child's behavior.* This enables them to work on those patterns at home while the teacher does so at school.

H—Has not conformed to Dress Code (1 tally)

O--Out of Order (1 tally): Given for throwing objects, general rowdiness and misbehavior in the restroom.

W--Work Not In: (1 tally): Given for homework, projects, unprepared due to books and school materials left home.

I-- Intentional Disobedience (5 tallies): Given for open defiance or refusal to obey a directive. This category also applies to other serious misbehavior such as cheating, lying, fighting, stealing, etc.

A--Attitude Lacking (1 or more tallies): Given for facial expressions that show defiance, lack of respect, lack of reverence, haughtiness, uncooperativeness, negativism, sarcasm, worldliness.

C--Courtesy Lacking (1 tally): Given for a lack of manners or politeness that should be expected from a student at that particular grade level.

T--Talking (1 tally): Talking or other forms of communication that is done without permission.

As a general rule, teachers will give one or more warnings during a given day prior to assigning conduct tallies to a student.

9.10.2 Corporal Punishment

Knowing that the Bible teaches us that the rod of correction is to be used to deal with childhood foolishness, (Prov. 22:15, Prov. 13:24) we believe that it is necessary at times to paddle students who have either shown a pattern of foolish behavior or who have demonstrated a rebellious spirit. We require that all parents who enroll their children at ACS agree to support the use of corporal punishment. Realizing that this is a very serious matter, we require that the paddle be administered only by one of the administration and that another adult be there also to witness the event. If parents prefer to paddle the child themselves, they may do so but they will have to come to the school to administer the paddling before the child will be permitted back in the classroom.

9.10.3 Disciplinary Referral Forms (Elementary)

Disciplinary Referral Forms are used at the discretion of the teachers/office to make parents aware of an incident of a more serious nature (ex. cheating, fighting, repeated offenses) requiring discipline, and to enlist their help in correcting the problem. The form shares with the parents the reason for the referral, what has been done by the school thus far, recommendations for restoration, and the reaction of the student to the school's concerns and efforts to restore him. (Gal. 6:1, 2)