

2021-2022 BCA Formal Occasions Dress Guidelines for Homecoming

Bethel Christian Academy expects our students and their guests to maintain a level of modesty and dignity as they represent our school at its formal occasions such as Homecoming and the Junior Senior Banquet. Gentlemen are expected to wear a suit or tuxedo with a tie and dress shoes.

Dress checks will go by the following process:

Step 1: You MUST send 3 picture messages of you wearing your prospective dress to Mrs. Croom (252-939-6614): one each from the front, one from the side with arms in front, and one from the back. After sharing it with all advisors (please be patient), she will reply to you with their assessment on how the dress may or may not need to be altered to fit within the guidelines listed below. At that time you may choose to proceed with the purchase and alterations, OR you may wish to choose a different dress that would require fewer adjustments. (*We are happy to check a dress prior to alterations.*)

Step 2: Bring the dress in for an IN-PERSON fitting. If the dress does not pass at the first fitting, further adjustments must be made and the dress brought back at our next scheduled after school check.

Step 3: If the dress does not pass the second in-person check, the student may bring a dress requiring no alterations, or the student forfeits the right to participate in this formal event.

2021-2022 Female Formalwear Guidelines

- Dresses must have at least one shoulder strap and must be in one piece (no separation at waist).
- Dresses that are form fitting, outlining the curves of the body, or dresses made of clinging material that reveal undergarment outlines are not acceptable. If the dress does not fall straight from the behind or if it cups under the bottom, it will not pass. Mermaid style dresses may be denied.
- No fabrics that suggest nudity will be permitted (specifically in the chest, midriff, and hip area). Sheer fabric in this area must be lined with a *non-skin toned colored* fabric.
- Dresses must not draw the eye to the chest in a suggestive manner.
 - *No cleavage or the appearance of cleavage may be shown while sitting or standing. Sides must be filled in under the arm so that the side of the breast is covered.
 - *Please don't choose sweetheart or V necklines unless you are willing to add fabric to make them straight across.
- Dresses open below mid-back (bottom of the shoulder blades) are not permitted.
- Dresses must be long enough to touch the crease of the back of the knee in standing positions. No slits above the knee.

Note that alterations need to be sewn in alterations.

*BCA Staff will use their best discretion to decide what represents our school in a Christ-like manner. It will be in their judgment to decide on all needed alterations. Please note dresses may not pass for reasons other than those listed above. The list is merely guidelines and is not meant to be comprehensive. Please understand that each young lady is different, and dresses will fit and appear differently on each of them. Our goal is not to make this process difficult but to honor Christ at our formal events.

New Dress Checks: after school on Wednesday, Dec. 8 and 15. **Dress checks must be complete before Christmas break.**

*****Pictures must be sent to Mrs. Jane Croom (252-939-6614)**