

2026-2027 BCA Formal Occasion Dress Guidelines for Homecoming - January 15, 2027

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 and tie or tuxedo with **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. Ingram (252-571-7815): one each from the front, from the side with arms straight out, and 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 (check return policies), OR you may wish to choose a different dress that would require fewer adjustments. (We prefer to check a dress prior to alterations to allow for returns if the dress does not meet requirements.) **If you choose to order a dress, please send a picture or link prior to ordering.**

Step 2: Bring the dress in for an IN-PERSON fitting. If the dress does not pass at the first fitting, adjustment 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 be asked to bring a dress requiring no alterations, or the student may forfeit the right to attend this formal event.

2026-2027 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 and/or reveal undergarment outlines are not acceptable. If the dress does not fall 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 do not 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 blade) are not permitted.
- Dresses must be long enough to touch the crease in the back of the knee in standing positions. No slits above the knee.

Note that alterations must be sewn in. No pins or tape.

*BCA Staff will use their best discretion to decide what represents our school in a Christ-like manner. It will be in their judgement to decide on all needed alterations. Please note dresses may not pass for reasons other than those listed above. This 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.

Initial checks will be available after school on Wednesdays. Please text Mrs. Ingram at 252-571-7815 to confirm a scheduled time for a dress check.