

Dress Attire for MCA Formal School Dances

Hello,

We are excited to create a festive time to celebrate the students and friendships at MCA through a Winter Formal and Spring Prom. As seasons and styles change our standards and definitions of modesty remain the same. However, at times they are interpreted in ways we did not intend so this letter is a clarification of the modesty guidelines the dress check committee uses to determine which dresses will be approved. In most cases, the few that do not pass are due to an alteration that is needed which once undertaken, will need to be approved once more. We are aware that dresses that just meet approval during dress checks are often the ones that shift and therefore become of inappropriate length once dancing and movement occurs. If your dress fits this characteristic you may still be approached at the dance by chaperones for instructions.

The attire for dances is formal, but that doesn't necessarily mean floor-length evening gowns and tuxedos. What it does entail is an appropriate dress for girls (dressier than Sunday attire) and dress pants, a button-up shirt and a tie for guys (suit jackets are not required).

Dress Checks: will be held on Wednesdays from 3:15-3:45 (or as long as girls are present). Three dress checks are held, the Wed. before the dance and the two preceding Wed. Please plan to purchase your dress and visit only on these 3 designated days.

Wear your dress with the undergarments you will use the night of the dance.

To avoid last minute alterations follow the guidelines in the handbook and make sure the following has been addressed:

- You are asked to cover your midriff completely. To clarify the midriff is any part of the stomach, sides and lower back. This means:
 - 2-piece dresses **MUST** overlap at the waist: meaning the top **MUST** overlap with the skirt waistband at all times.
 - All dresses should cover your midriff completely. For example, cut-outs, barely covered lace overlays of cut-outs, backless and other plunging neckline dresses are popular. If you are wearing a one-piece dress for example and there is an opening showing your waist (see through fabric covered or not), if the sides of your midriff is showing, then it is prohibited. You will be asked to provide alterations to the dress.
 - To avoid confusion on where the midriff begins and ends the dress check committee uses the following- Open back dresses will be measured from the traditional bra line and may dip up to 3 inches below to mid back

- Overall dress length and ALL slits, cannot exceed more than 6 inches from the back of the knee. This is measured from the solid fabric of the dress, not sheer overlays.
- Front necklines shall not be lower than 5 inches from the base of the neck (the intent of this rule is to eliminate/minimize viewable cleavage... if 5" is too low to serve this purpose for you personally then you will be asked to make alterations... Unfortunately, since God made us all differently, there isn't one applicable rule for everyone. Dresses can be altered with extra fabric to meet these measurements.
- There is a difference between form fitting and skin-tight and as God has made us differently please be aware that skin tight dresses are not allowed. If the tightness of your dress causes the dress to ride-up shorter than the approved 6" then it will not be approved.
- These rules also apply to any see-through material.
- Strapless dresses ARE allowed.

Winter Formal and Prom is a formal and special night for MCA students and guests. We hope to maintain the integrity and formality of this night by implementing this simple dress code. There are hundreds of beautiful, tasteful, and appropriate dresses available for this event. Please bring your dresses to school and be prepared to try them on for approval. If a dress is deemed inappropriate, it will need to be altered/corrected and brought back in for re-approval. Please make sure that you have enough time to have your dress checked and then RE-CHECKED in case alterations are necessary.

Gentlemen, if you are bringing a date from another school, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to make her aware of our dress code policy.

If you **or your date**, come inappropriately dressed, you will be asked to leave and a refund will **NOT** be granted.

If you are bringing an outside guest, please pick up an **“Upper School Student Guest Request”** form from the Upper School office or download from the MCA website.

Examples:

Approved



Not Approved



Not Approved

