

# Prom Dress Code Guidelines

## Dress Code

- ❑ Attire that is inappropriate for the occasion or deviates from modesty in the judgment of a school administrator will result in being denied admission. **This includes guests from other schools.**
- ❑ For **boys**, tuxedos or suits including jackets, ties, socks and dress shoes are required. Young men are to be clean-shaven, meet school guidelines regarding length and style of hair, and are not to wear earrings. No hats or canes allowed in the dance.
- ❑ For **girls**, dresses and attire that reflect modesty are required. Each year, the most difficult task for administrators is the determination of modesty for girls. Traditional interpretations are often at odds with fashion and cultural trends. Each year, girls are turned away or asked to modify. This is easily avoidable if the following guidelines are observed:
  - Prom attire should reflect more a formal family occasion (like a wedding) rather than a night on the town or at a dance club.
  - Dresses that are too revealing, are skin tight or form-fitting, expose midriffs or cleavage, or are too short in length are not appropriate.
  - Claims that a dress was worn at last year's Prom or at Homecoming, or comparisons to the dresses of other girls already admitted to Prom will not be entertained or discussed. (Claiming that "others were speeding" rarely works when pulled over by police.)
  - Modesty is admittedly a subjective interpretation, but one which we have a duty to uphold. Girls should therefore err on the side of modesty and formality and not put school administrators in the difficult position of upholding school standards. Having been specifically forewarned, we expect nothing less than full cooperation from girls and their parents on this issue.

## Specifics for Dresses:

- Dress backs may not be lower than the elbow.
- Dresses may not be any shorter than 3" above the knee (or 3" below the middle finger for taller girls). This includes any slits in the dress. If you purchase a dress with a slit that does not meet those guidelines, you will need to have the slit sewn.
- Dresses must not be too tight or form-fitting.
- Dresses may not have cut-outs. Covering a cut-out with fabric will not suffice unless that fabric is permanently sewn into the dress.
- Dresses must not be low cut in the front. Be especially careful with halter-style dresses or strapless dresses with a sweetheart neckline.
- Appropriate under garments should be worn based on the style of the dress. Keep in mind that certain bras, padded busts, etc. can change the look of the dress.

## Dress Approval:

- As we did last year, we will offer girls (both Verot students and dates from other schools) the opportunity to submit a dress for approval.
- If you wish to submit a dress for approval, please use the following guidelines:
  - Submit a picture of yourself in the dress (make sure she can see your face) via email to Mrs. O'Grady ([suzie.ogradey@bvhs.org](mailto:suzie.ogradey@bvhs.org)) or Mrs. Hamstra ([kate.hamstra@bvhs.org](mailto:kate.hamstra@bvhs.org)).
  - Be sure you send a picture of both the front and back of the dress.
  - They will need at least 24 hours to respond to your email, so please don't sit at a dress shop waiting for them to respond immediately.
  - They will not approve dresses via text message.
  - If you make any unacceptable alterations after your dress was approved, you still run the risk of being turned away at the door.
- Please keep in mind they are doing this for YOU. This takes a great deal of time, but the goal is to ensure everyone is able to get into prom looking beautiful and classy.
- The guidelines are clearly spelled out. Please do not submit dresses which clearly do not meet one of the requirements.

- The dresses below show where we “draw the line” so to speak. Dresses that go below the elbow or lower than the line drawn on the front of the dress, will not be acceptable.



This dress is too low in the front. With a few stitches in the front it would be ok.



This dress is too low in the front and back.



This dress has cutouts in the front that would not meet the guidelines.



This dress has a slit that goes higher than 3" above the knee and would not meet guidelines. It would be ok if it was altered to 3" above the knee.