

January 23, 2025

Dear Parents and Worthington Christian Students,

Spring Gala, our annual formal event for Juniors and Seniors, will be held on Saturday, April 26th, at The Lakes Golf and Country Club, 6740 Worthington Road, Westerville, OH 43082.

From 6:00-6:45 p.m., parents are welcome to gather to take pictures before the event begins. The event for students (only) begins at 7:00 p.m.

Further details and ticket information will be provided in future communications.

Please know that this is the only official, school-hosted, school-approved event that night. Other parties or gatherings are NOT school-sponsored, school-approved, or school-supervised. Parents need to communicate with other parents about any other parties or gatherings.

<u>Below are our dress code guidelines for Gala</u>. Please read them thoroughly and carefully.

*Guys are expected to wear <u>at least</u> a sport coat, dress shirt, tie, dress pants (not jeans), and dress shoes. A tuxedo works too! Exceptionally tight or revealing clothing, unbuttoned shirts, etc. are not appropriate for an event like Gala. If any wardrobe questions arise, the young men can consult with Mr. Kraynak in advance.

*Girls are expected to wear formal dresses. Dress checks (a requirement) will be conducted via Teams or in person with Mrs. Palmer. Please send a picture of the front, side and back to Mrs. Palmer on Teams. **The student must be wearing the dress in the pictures sent (with face included).** The pictures may not be of the dress on a hanger or from a catalog/website. If a student would rather try it on in person, she will just need to schedule a time to do that with Mrs. Palmer. Following the guidelines below ensures a positive event and mitigates any last-minute changes and concerns. **Visiting female guests are also expected to participate in dress checks.**

Here are some specific quidelines to keep in mind as you select that beautiful dress:

- Dresses may be strapless.
- Dresses may be backless (if they are not cut below the naval).

- 2-piece dresses MUST overlap at the waist, meaning the top MUST overlap with the skirt's waistband. Midriffs will not be exposed. This includes both front and side. With arms down at your side, if skin touches skin, the dress is inappropriate.
- See-through/sheer apparel or panels are not permitted. Open panels/cut-outs are also not permitted.
- Dresses may not have a slit that exceeds mid-thigh. This is fingertip length.
- Dresses may not be cut below the bust line.
- Undergarments should not be visible.
- Garments that are too tight or low-cut are also unacceptable.

As we have learned from conducting Gala dress checks the past 25+ years, regardless of the guidelines provided, various styles of dresses can look different from girl to girl.

Therefore, if we have a need to see the dress in person, we will plan to do so. We have always taken pictures in the past to ensure each dress has been checked as well as to let the girls know if there are any duplicates.

We suggest that you NOT purchase a dress that is not returnable if the dress is not approved.

If guidelines are not followed, we will ask the student to leave the event and/or wait until the next school day to meet with both the student AND parents to discuss the consequences for not adhering to school policy.

Considering the school's position on human sexuality, students are expected to dress in ways that are consistent with their God-given biological sex during school and at school-related activities. Furthermore, students may bring guests only of the opposite biological sex to certain social events such as Gala. All expectations relating to this policy are rooted in the school's biblical and theological understanding of human sexuality and ultimately are interpreted by the school's administration.

Another word about inviting guests: A junior or senior can invite a WC freshman or sophomore as their guest. If your son or daughter is inviting a guest who attends a school other than WC, please be sure to share the dress code information with the guest. Non-WC guests must also turn in a guest permission form (see attached) to the office prior to the event.

We are looking forward to a wonderful, memorable event! Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Abby Palmer 614-410-3275 abby.palmer@worthingtonchristian.com