

UNIFORMS

marching band uniforms

For a new marching band member, putting on a uniform for the first time can be very confusing! However, nothing can beat how cool you'll look when every single band member is precisely dressed and performing at their best! The following sections will help you become familiar with how to wear and care for each part of the uniform.

Since the band is judged on appearance during performances, the goal is to have each marching member look the same. That means careful attention to the smallest detail...from tucking in shoelaces to having each hat brim sit at the bridge of the nose!

Please remember to clean your uniform. During rigorous marching sessions, everyone can get quite hot, resulting in some pretty stinky wool jackets! Follow the cleaning instructions carefully, and remember that you cannot take the uniform to the dry cleaners on Thursday if you perform at a football game on Friday.

uniform maintenance and cleaning fee

Each student will be assessed a uniform maintenance and cleaning fee for both their marching band and concert band uniform. The fee for 2012 is \$70. This fee covers depreciation on uniform items and cleaning.

cleaning the marching uniform

The only parts of the marching uniform that can be cleaned at home are the jacket snap-in collar, your gloves, and your shoes. The jacket and pants should be sent to a dry cleaner.

Allow at least four days of lead time to clean your uniform. If the band performs on Friday, for example, the LATEST you should take it to the cleaner is MONDAY.

Jacket Cleaning Instructions:

1. Remove the white snap-in collar from the jacket before taking it to the cleaner. The snap-in collar can be machine-washed at home, using cold water and detergent. However, the collar should be AIR DRIED only. If the collar is dried in a dryer, it will shrink and will no longer fit the jacket.
2. Check the jumpsuit pocket before cleaning, as well as the jacket snaps. If the snaps or zippers are loose or missing, inform one of the official uniform volunteers at your next performance. Arrive early so that we can fix it.
3. Take the jacket and pants to a reliable dry cleaner. Do NOT take the hanger and the uniform bag to the dry cleaners. Verify the pick-up time, and REMEMBER TO PICK IT UP!
4. Store the jacket and pants on the uniform hanger. Hang the back of the jacket on the rounded back of the hanger towards the back of the garment bag. Leave the garment bag unzipped to allow the uniform to breathe.
5. DO NOT STORE YOUR UNIFORM IN YOUR CAR!
6. Do NOT press your jacket with an iron.

Pants Cleaning Instructions:

1. Alert the cleaner to any spots on the pants, especially around the bottom where mud can splash.
2. Hang the pants on the uniform hanger by aligning the leg creases. Make sure the legs are straight, and then slip them on to the hanger. Hang the pant legs down longer than the jumpsuit straps to keep them balanced on the hanger. Do NOT press your pants with an iron. Hang them up carefully to prevent wrinkles.

Gloves and Elastics:

1. The cotton gloves and elastics are machine washable, but must be AIR DRIED or they will shrink.
2. Gently re-shape the gloves after laundering to help them fit properly.

Shoes:

1. Use a soft, damp rag to remove loose dirt and mud from the shoe.
2. For stubborn dirt, use a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser (available in the cleaning supplies section of grocery and discount stores). Follow the directions on the package. Keep the sides and main part of the shoe clean, but don't worry too much about the sole.
3. To prevent the shoe from cracking, wipe off moisture with a towel after performances. Use shoe trees or stuff soft rags into the toes to help them keep their shape.
4. Do NOT store the shoes in the uniform bag.

Hat and Plume Storage Instructions:

1. Please handle the plume only by the bottom metal portion to protect the feathers. Remove the plume from the protective sleeve by pulling metal end out first. Unroll then remove the plastic bag and return it to the protective tube.
2. When inserting and removing the plume, always hold the metal part of the plume and the bottom side or back of the hat. NEVER hold the bill of the hat to prevent cracking the plastic. Insert the metal wire into the hold in the hat to be sure to push the metal piece all the way down to the plastic guard on the top of the hat.

how to wear a marching band uniform

First of All, What's in that Trailer?

You may have seen the Ankeny Marching Band trailer parked near the stadium during football games. Your marching hat and plume will always be inside your garment bag. Your hat and plume will stay in the trailer. When it's time for a road trip, you will also put your uniform on the trailer in a designated slot that matches your uniform number. Percussion and pit instruments also travel on the trailer. The uniform volunteers keep extra supplies on the trailer; however you are responsible for bringing all parts of your uniform to each performance.

Put Up Your Hair before Leaving Home

When a marching band performs, adjudicators should not be able to tell the guys from the girls. Everyone should look the same, allowing the beauty of the music and artistry of the marching to be the focus. So every band member who wears a hat must have his or her hair completely pulled up. We should mention here too that the pit people must have their hair pulled back out of the face and off the collar too.

If your hair is long, use an elastic hair band and pull the hair to the very TOP of your head. Use bobby pins to help hold it in a bun shape, or double up the ponytail. The hat has a recessed area inside where

your hair must fit. Shorter wisps of hair must also be held in place. Super-hold hairspray is great! Yes, even the guys must have their hair up. If your hair is longer, touches your collar, or is very wavy, it must be up as well.

Save yourself and parent volunteers some time by doing your hair at home. If a uniform volunteer or other parent volunteer tells you that you must put up your hair, do it! Parents will also help you get your hair up and hats positioned correctly for each performance.

Arrive Early

For home football games, you may arrive wearing your uniform or change at school. Be sure to wear a white T-shirt under your jacket at all times. You'll also want to wear slippery shorts such as compression or bike shorts so that you can change in front of others and so that your uniform will not cling. For road trips, you'll load your uniform on to the trailer up to three days before we leave; remember to pick it up from the cleaner!

Don't forget your shoes, long all-black socks, gloves and elastics, and instrument! Bring a bag along so that you can store your personal items in the bus or changing area.

Get Your Hat and Plume

Once you arrive, come to the trailer to pick up your hat (unless you are instructed to put on your uniform first). You'll find your name posted on the trailer's side door, along with your hat number. Your hat number will NOT be the same as your uniform number!

Enter the trailer from the SIDE DOOR ONLY, and exit out the rear door. This is critical for traffic control. If you forget, don't worry. A uniform volunteer will remind you about the correct way to enter and exit the trailer.

Always check the board on the trailer's side door for important information.

Put On Your Hat and Fix Your Hair

During band camp or before the first performance, the uniform volunteers will fit you for a hat. The hat must be worn a specific way to maintain uniformity among the band members. Once your hat is adjusted, please do NOT change the hat's settings without consulting a uniform volunteer.

Your hat must fit snugly on your head so it will stay during bows, turns, etc. The brim will align with your eyes and the brim's interior ridge will rest two fingers' width above the bridge of your nose. The chin strap must be snug and the strap's loose end must be tucked into the clear plastic slide holder to make the strap look like a continuous piece. Your plume will fit into a slot on top of the hat. Plumes are worn for all performances unless otherwise indicated by the director.

Tuck in Your Shoelaces

For safety, you MUST tuck your shoelaces down underneath the crossed laces, or under the tongue of each shoe. Nothing is more embarrassing than losing a shoe during a marching maneuver! (If it would ever happen, keep moving!)

Put On Your Gloves and Elastic Bands

You will wear white gloves for each performance. Some players will cut off the fingertips of gloves to make playing your instrument easier. Your section leader will advise you about this. Your gloves and elastic bands are the ONLY things (besides extra reeds, for example) that you may keep inside the jumpsuit's single inner pocket.

You may need help getting both of your gloves on. Be sure to slide the elastic bands up near the top edges of your gloves. Make sure your name is on the inside of the elastic bands and does not show.

The Uniform Top 11 List:

1. The only food/beverage you are allowed to consume while in uniform is WATER.
2. Always carry your hat upright, never by the plume or chin strap
3. Always report wardrobe malfunctions to uniform volunteers immediately. They carry sewing kits with them on the field.
4. Limited supplies of loaner uniform parts are available; if you have lost your gloves, shoes, etc., you will have to pay for replacements.
5. Always wear shoes—absolutely NO bare/stocking feet will be allowed outside the building, buses, or trailer.
6. NEVER change or alter your uniform on your own.
7. When storing your uniform, ALWAYS leave the bag unzipped half way to allow the uniform to dry (from perspiring) and to breathe.
8. Clean regularly.
9. The only items allowed in the uniform bag are your jacket, pants, and gloves.

how to wear a concert/symphonic band uniform

After marching season, you'll be fitted with a concert uniform. Guys will wear a tuxedo and girls will wear long black dresses.

Men—Tuxedo

You will be measured for a tuxedo shirt before concert season. You will also need black dress socks and black dress shoes. You may wear your marching band issued shoes for concert band also. Please shop for these now if you don't already own a pair, so that you are prepared for the first concert.

- The tuxedo that the band will issue is dry clean only. If you must clean it, be sure to allow enough time before the next performance.
- Store your tuxedo in an unzipped garment bag to allow it to breathe.
- Please hang the pants up carefully along the creases to prevent wrinkles.
- If you lose your bow tie, you may purchase a spare from the uniform volunteers. Supplies are limited, so please keep track of your things.
- Wash your tuxedo shirt after every performance. Follow the laundering instructions inside the shirt, remembering to stain-treat the collar or sleeves if they are dirty. Use an iron to press your shirt.
- Let the uniform volunteers know of any problem you are having with your tuxedo. They are prepared to fix most emergencies on the spot.
- Do NOT eat in your tuxedo!

Women—Long Dress

Before the concert season you will be fitted with a concert dress. The dress is made of polyester, and has a scoop neckline and long sleeves. You will need to purchase a pair of black dress shoes. Each dress is individually hemmed to your height using that standard heel height. Avoid shoes with small, stiletto-type heels, as these can easily catch on the hem and tear it loose.

- Since the dress is polyester, static build-up is common in the winter. Wear a black half-slip to reduce cling and use Static Guard on your pantyhose and slip.
- You are expected to wear pantyhose or knee-high panty hose with the concert dress.

- Your dress is machine washable. If the dress is soiled, wash it separately in cool water. Tumble dry on low, remove promptly and allow the dress to hang fully to avoid wrinkles.
- For performances, keep your hair out of your eyes so that you can see the director. However, do NOT use barrettes or other clips that are shiny or glittery. Stick with black, matte finish products.
- Your dress ties in the back. Uniform volunteers will help you tie a loose square knot at the base of your spine once you arrive at school. When traveling to/from school, be careful of the tails.
- Notify a uniform volunteer immediately if you notice a problem with your dress. The most common issue is hems coming out. The volunteers are prepared to fix your dress on the spot if necessary.
- Do NOT eat in your concert dress.