

Marching Band Uniform Care

Summer (hot weather) Marching Uniform

Khaki-colored shorts, blue band t-shirt, brown belt, white socks and white sneakers. Sneakers can have an emblem (Nike swoosh/ Adidas stripes) as long as it's subtle (blue, gray, black.) Students can wear any khaki-colored shorts that **meet the school dress code**. Shorts can be any shade of khaki or any brand. Carpenter-style shorts are acceptable.

Football Marching Uniform

Jacket, bib, shirt, pants, hat, gauntlets, black socks, white gloves & black shoes. Students wear the summer marching t-shirt & grey athletic shorts under the marching uniform. Plumes are placed on the hats immediately before and removed immediately after performances. The plumes are fragile so volunteers with gloves will place, remove and store them.

Band t-shirt, band issued grey athletic shorts, black socks & white gloves are included in your marching registration fee. Khaki shorts, brown belt, white sneakers, white socks and black marching shoes are not.

Shoes: Black marching shoes must be purchased at registration. Shoes are a separate line item on your registration form. You do not need to reorder them every year if the ones you have are in good condition and still fit.

Uniform Measurements and Fitting: Students will be measured during band registration. Fittings will take place during summer band camp. Every effort is made to properly fit the students. Please understand that there are a finite number of uniforms. Students are fitted according to size and on a seniority basis. Students may request to have the same uniform from year to year but it still must be returned at the end of each season and making a request is not a guarantee that each item is available.

Length of pants: The hem of the pants must be right to, but not touching, the shoe. There should be no break in the crease down the front or back of the pants. Fold the excess fabric inside the pant leg and locate the appropriate snap found on the inside seam to adjust the length. **DO NOT HEM, TAPE, OR CUT THE FABRIC!**

Length of sleeves: The jacket sleeves are also equipped with snaps to set the length. The sleeves length is to be close to the first thumb knuckle when the arms are down to the side. When holding the instrument in playing position, the hands must be completely exposed. Again, **DO NOT HEM, TAPE, OR CUT THE FABRIC!**

Uniform Care: The uniforms are to be machine washed as needed. The uniforms must last approximately 10 years. If proper care is taken, they should only have to be washed a few times during the marching season. Excessive washing will wear out the fabric. After wearing the uniform, hang it up on the hanger that is issued to you. This will allow the uniform to "breathe." Also, do not store the uniform in the plastic garment bag. This could cause some undesirable things to grow on the uniform. Garment bags are for transporting, not storing the uniform. **NEVER DRY CLEAN.** The chemicals affect the dye quality.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY, Proper care is imperative with any garment.

Laundering

- It is suggested to have a committee that takes care of garments. Divide the garments for washing among several parents who will use the same washing procedure to insure correct care.
- If you use a professional cleaner – please give them these same instructions. It is not necessary to wash uniforms before wearing them.
- Avoid washing bib pants and jackets together! Never wash in hot water! Use only non-chlorine household laundry detergent.
- NOTE: Always test wash one garment before the entire set. Water in different regions of the country can sometimes react differently in combination with different detergents and fabrics

Jackets and Bib Pants:

- Jackets and bib pants are made of completely washable polyester-gabardine. If other fabrics are sewn into the jacket they are also washable.
- Any piece that is removable (is attached with Velcro, snaps etc. must be taken off and cared for separately. The removable piece can consist of sequin, Mylar or other delicate material.
- If a stain does occur, sponge with water or treat with an appropriate product before it has time to set and before laundering. (See stain removal “Quick Reference” guide) You may use “Spray and Wash” and other non-chlorine stain removers when washing. Use only non-chlorine detergent! Many detergents are harsh and have a bleaching ingredient that will cause even colorfast fabric to migrate.
- Do not use liquid fabric softener on band uniforms! A softener sheet may be used in the dryer, however, use only one (1) sheet per dry load (see drying directions below.)
- Machine wash on the gentle / permanent press cycle, but do not overload machines. Launder 4 to 6 pieces at a time. At cycle completion place garments in dryer, and dry on cool/permanent press setting.
- **Caution:** Do NOT use a hot dryer setting! A hot dryer setting will remove the press. When dried on a cool or permanent press setting, uniforms will require very little touch up. Remove garments from the dryer and place on a hanger immediately.

Pants Pressing:

- Touch up pressing on pants may be desired occasionally, or the pants may be professionally pressed after several washings and drying. If the snap-up hem is used, do not press over seam where the snap tape is placed. Press creases on front and back of pant and bottom hem.

Extended Shoulders (Wings) and Collars:

- If jackets have extended shoulders or wings, fold them back onto the shoulder during washing and drying. Also do this when transporting uniforms. Folding allows them to hold their shape much better.
- Touch-up Steam pressing shoulders and collars may be required to retain their proper shape and appearance due to heat bonded interfacings.
- Be sure to dry garments completely after each use before storing. Do not store in vinyl garment bags.

Garments or Pieces with VELCRO:

- Make certain that the hook side of the Velcro is not exposed when laundering uniforms to avoid a 'picking' of the fabric. If a jacket has both the hook (hard side) and loop (soft side) of Velcro,
- hook pieces together evenly so the hook side is not exposed.
- Note: If the two pieces cannot be easily hooked together, use loose pieces of soft Velcro to place on the hard Velcro.

Baldrics and Gauntlets:

- Baldrics or gauntlets that are all poly gabardine, may be washed on a gentle cycle and dried on a permanent press setting in a dryer observing all laundering instructions previously provided for this fabric type. Make sure to hook the Velcro closure together when laundering in a machine to avoid picking of fabric.
- All baldrics and gauntlets with sewn in trims are laundered in the same manner with the exception of Sequin Trim. These must be hand washed in cool water, then towel dried to remove excess water. They should lay flat to dry and always wash in cold water.

Vest and Cinch Belts:

- All back belts on vests and cinch belts have a six-inch elastic with a layer of stretch fabric. These items are to be hand washed and then flat dried because continued drying in a dryer will eventually destroy the elastic.

Competition Marching Uniform

Competition marching uniform, consisting of bib pants and jacket, should be dry cleaned only. Unless, instructed otherwise.

Uniform Returns

The Directors will announce the schedule for returning the uniforms after marching season. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR UNIFORM IN THE BAND HALL. Students should return uniforms during the announced times which will help to mitigate the "but I left it in the band hall, someone must have taken it" issues.

All uniform items are property of LISD and must be returned at the end of each season jacket, pants, left & right gauntlet, hat and hat box. FMHS garment bag, & FMHS hanger. Students are responsible for all uniform items that were issued to them. Turning in parts of someone else's uniform will NOT excuse you from payment for lost items although we certainly appreciate receiving any returned items! Please return your friend's items if you find them.

Replacement costs for lost or damaged items are as follows but are subject to change based on manufacturer pricing.

<i>Jacket</i>	<i>\$145.00</i>	<i>Pants</i>	<i>\$ 60.00</i>
<i>Gauntlets</i>	<i>\$ 35.00/pair</i>	<i>Hat</i>	<i>\$44.00</i>
<i>Hat box</i>	<i>\$6.00</i>	<i>Plume</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Garment bag</i>	<i>\$8.50</i>	<i>Hanger</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>

PLUS tax & shipping. Shipping fees are either 7% or \$25.00 per item depending on the size of the total o

All uniforms must be washed before they are returned. We need the uniforms returned in good condition for checking out the next season. Imagine your child getting a uniform next year that was not washed. *Uniforms with visible evidence of not being washed (makeup/collar stains, dirty gauntlets, spots, etc.) will not be accepted.*

Additional Notes: Color guard has separate guidelines and uniforms. Percussion ensemble (pit) and tuba students do not wear hats. Percussion (pit & battery) do not wear gloves. Some instrument sections will cut part of the fingers off the gloves. See your section leaders for proper glove wear.

Concert Attire

Girls: long black dress, sheer or black hose if worn, black shoes (flat or comfortable heel height)

Boys: Black tux jacket & pants, white wing-collar shirt, black cummerbund & bow tie, black socks & black dress shoes. Students will be given the opportunity to order concert attire usually during their class period. The cost IS NOT INCLUDED in marching season fees. You will be notified of the fitting dates and order forms will be sent out at that time. Black dress shoes are to be provided by the student.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for taking care of your uniform and following these guidelines. Additional volunteers and suggestions are always welcome.

Barbara Hanchette
FMHS Band Booster
Uniform Chair
uniforms@fmhsband.org