

Interesting Information About Band Uniforms

With the beginning of another school year, it is time to visit our band uniform procedures. This is a review, of course, for our veterans. But, there are always new things to learn or re-learn !! For our newcomers, uniforms may seem a little overwhelming at first, but it gets very easy (if simple rules are followed) !!

Concert Students

Concert uniforms will be fit in the fall, after school begins, during band classes. Boys wear a formal black tux, with black vest. Girls wear a formal black skirt, cummerbund and jacket. All concert students wear a black bow tie.

Each new student must order a tux shirt and shoes with their fall registration packet. All students wear the same style of tux shirt. Girls wear a black, short heel, strapped, dress shoe and boys wear a black, patent, tie dress shoe (marching dinkles). It is required that each student wear the same style of these items, purchased through the band program. No substitutes are allowed.

Boys must bring and wear a pair of black crew socks for each performance. The socks must be long enough to cover all skin, when the student is seated. **NO ANKLETS OR SHORT SOCKS ARE ALLOWED !!** Further, the socks may not have markings on them, i.e. Nike, etc.

Girls must bring and wear a pair of black nylon knee-highs for each performance. The knee-highs must be sheer, not opaque.

A new rule for this year -- A plain white tee-shirt should be worn under the tux shirt. The tee shirt should have a crew neck, no markings on it, and short sleeves. Students find this comfortable, because the tux shirts are thin and jackets are often taken off during long concert days. In the past, we required that pep shirts be worn under the tux shirt. It became apparent that markings on the pep shirt could be seen very clearly, thus detracting from the formal styling of the uniform.

Marching Students

Marching students will be fit during the August band camp. Marching students wear black bib pants, a black and white jacket with gold baldric (sash), black marching hat (shako) with plume. Plumes are passed out and collected by band parent volunteers before and after each event. Plumes are never kept in the garment bags or hat boxes.

Each marching student must purchase black, patent, marching shoes (marching dinkles), black gloves (marching gloves with Velcro wrist closures), wristbands (percussion only), and a pep shirt to wear under the bib pants. The England trip shirt may be worn in place of the pep band shirt. All of these items, except the trip shirt, must be purchased through the band program at band camp registration, so that all students are dressed identically. Trip shirts are given to students when they sign up for the trip. No substitutes are allowed. Boys only need to buy one pair of shoes !! The same shoes are used by boys in concert and marching band. !!

All students must bring a pair of black crew socks for each performance. The socks must be long enough to cover all skin, when the student is seated. NO ANKLETS OR SHORT SOCKS ARE ALLOWED !! The socks must be plain black with no markings.

A pep shirt or the trip shirt is worn under the bib pants, because jackets are taken off when students are not competing. Plain white, colored or non-band tee-shirts are not allowed to be worn with the marching uniform at any time.

Students are allowed to wear a pair of athletic shorts (non-bulky) under the marching bib pants. No other street clothing is allowed to be worn under the marching uniform.

Jazz Students

Jazz students will be fit for uniforms, after school starts in the fall. Jazz students wear black tux pants and a white tux shirt. Jazz I students wear a black vest and Jazz II students wear a turquoise vest.

Black marching dinkles are worn by all jazz students. Black crew socks are worn by all students, with the same rules applying as explained for concert wear. A white tee-shirt should be worn under the tux shirt---crew neck, short sleeves, no markings.

Checking Out and Checking In of Uniforms

Uniform check out time is listed on the blackboard in the band room for each performance. In fact, the sequence and timing of each performance, festival, competition, etc. is always listed on the band room board. This is a great resource for all students (and parents).

Marching uniforms are stored alphabetically, in supplied garment bags, on the east side of the uniform closet (directly across from the band room). Concert uniforms are stored alphabetically, in supplied garment bags, on the west side of the closet. Marching hats are stored above the marching uniforms in alphabetical order. All uniforms are left in the uniform closet when not being used—NO EXCEPTIONS !!!

Students must check out and check in their uniforms with the uniform volunteer. All students must enter the closet by the volunteer, checking off your names, and exit through the other side. NO EXCEPTIONS !!!!

A student should leave his/her shoes, gloves, etc. in his/her garment bag. Socks and shirts should be taken home periodically for laundering. **ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE GARMENT BAGS OR HAT BOXES—EVER !!! MICE LIKE FOOD---WE DON'T WANT MICE NEAR THE UNIFORM AREA !!!**

If a student is missing socks, nylons, pep shirt, wristbands, or gloves, he/she will be provided with a new item and charged for it. A student with missing shoes or tux shirt will be allowed to borrow the item for that event only. Consistent borrowing of these items will result in a student requirement to purchase the item.

If a student loses any part of any uniform, i.e. bow tie, cumberband, jacket, skirt, etc., he or she will be charged for replacement.

When a student checks in his uniform at the end of an event, the garment bag will be checked. Pants must be hung on the hanger with creases together. Skirts must be folded and hung on the hanger. All jackets and vests must be buttoned and hung neatly over the pants or skirt. All uniform parts must be neatly placed at the bottom of the bag or in a plastic sack in the bag. If something is missing for the next event, you will have to spend money needlessly to replace it.

Changing into Uniform

The band room board usually tells where changing will take place for the event. We will provide this information at the uniform check-in door on a dry erase board, as well. Most of the time, girls change in the choir room and boys change in the drama room. However, when these rooms are not available, other rooms will be noted. **IT IS ONLY PERMISSIBLE TO CHANGE IN THE DESIGNATED CHANGING ROOMS. THIS MEANS THAT NO CHANGING WILL EVER BE PERMISSIBLE IN THE LOW BRASS ROOM, BAND ROOM, PERCUSSION ROOMS, OR DRAMA DRESSING ROOMS.** We consider these rules to be of the utmost importance. We take infractions very seriously.

Color Guard

Each Color Guard member will have two bags, on the marching uniform side of the closet, in alphabetical order. One bag will hold the spirit suit and the other bag will hold the field show costume. Spirit suits include black jazz pants, black dance shoes, black crew socks, black mock turtleneck (to be worn on cold days), gloves, and a gold, white and black vest. Members are billed for the pants, gloves and shoes. Turtlenecks and vests are provided to the student to use, but are the property of the band program. Socks are brought to performances by the student. Socks must be long enough to cover all skin when the student is seated. **NO ANKLETS !!** There cannot be any markings on the socks, i.e. Nike, etc. Field show costumes will be fit during the first week of September. They are then altered and ready for the first competition.

Color Guard members must follow all of the same rules as other band members for checking out/in uniforms. Socks will be available in the uniform closet, but students will be charged for them. Color Guard, too, will be charged for lost uniform parts.

Restrooms are available for Color Guard changing, because the mirrors are necessary for application of makeup. Nothing can be left in the restrooms, after changing into uniform or costume, however. All garment bags must be brought back to the uniform closet and retrieved, again, for changing into street clothes, after an event.

This seems like a lot to remember, but everything really goes quickly and easily when everyone follows these rules. The leadership will be cleaning the changing rooms, after each event. Let's give them an easy job and put everything in the garment bags !!!

Any questions or comments, please call or email Susan James (303)-741-2424 or jbspei@aol.com.

Good Luck to the #1 Arapahoe Warrior Bands !!!!!!!