

PCMB UNIFORMS: Frequently Asked Questions (updated 8/11)

Black and Gray Competition Uniform

What are the pieces?

The basic uniform consists of a pair of charcoal gray bibs, a short jacket, gauntlets (separate cuffs between the end of the sleeves and the top of the glove), gloves, a shako (hat), with a detachable plume (feather), and marching shoes. The bibs have adjustable shoulder straps and are cut slightly different for boys and girls. The name brand of the shoes is Drill Master; kids may refer to the shoes as Drills. Tubas wear berets rather than shakos. The gloves also vary: flutes and clarinets cut off the fingertips, saxophones and brass have little rubbery grips, and percussion doesn't wear them at all.

When do I get my uniform?

There is a fitting day in August when the uniform is issued (bibs, jacket, gauntlets, shako, plume). Each piece is numbered and recorded on your contract sheet, and entered into the uniform magician files. On that day you will also be fitted for shoes, gloves, and member shirts, which need to be ordered. Returning marchers are given their previous year's uniform to try on. Boys, in particular, will often need to be resized over the years.

Where do I keep it?

On fitting day you will be issued a zippered garment bag that has your name on it. The pieces of the uniform will remain in that bag, and are kept in closets in the marcher's uniform room. After a competition, you will neatly hang up the bibs and jacket, make sure the plume is in its protective cardboard tube, and put the gauntlets and gloves in the bottom of your bag. You will take home your member t-shirt and socks to be washed, and your shoes to be wiped/shined (please remember that you need to bring back or wear these EVERY time that uniforms are worn). Do not leave anything else in the bag. Shakos are kept in hard plastic cases marked by name, and are stored in the bottom of the same closet as the garment bags. Nothing but the shako should be kept in the case.

How much does it cost?

Instrument marching members will be charged a \$30 fee, which will cover the rental of the basic uniform, 3 pairs of gloves, bib hemming, and 2 member shirts. Percussion members who don't wear gloves will be charged a \$25 fee. Additional gloves may be purchased through the band at \$3/pair. If you want more shirts, you can purchase them directly through Heritage Logoworks, the official PCMB wear vendor.

How does it get cleaned?

Volunteer parents called washer parents, are assigned about 5-7 uniforms that they are responsible for cleaning. The uniforms get laundered after each competition using specific washing instructions. These washer parents pick up their set of uniforms after you hang them in the uniform room, wash them, and return them to the uniform room the following week. You are responsible for bringing home and cleaning your member t-shirt, socks and shoes- washer parents are not responsible for washing your personal items.

Are there rules about wearing it?

When you are wearing the Black and Gray uniforms you are expected to have the highest professional standards of behavior. It is rare that you are allowed to eat or drink anything other than water when wearing it. Obviously you are responsible for taking good care of it, and being very careful about sitting, leaning, brushing against things, etc. Percussion who wear carriers for drums need to be extra careful about wear and tear – please see one of the uniform magicians about proper padding. You need to wear ankle length black socks. Long hair; boys as well as girls, needs to be pulled back and pinned up appropriately, including pit who do not wear shakos. No nail polish, jewelry, watches, or distracting make-up. If you have pierced earrings that can't be taken out, they will need to be covered with a flesh-colored bandage.

Helpful hints

You may find it helps to be organized by having a specifically designated band bag in your home in which you keep your marching shoes, socks, member shirt, and anything else you routinely take to a competition. Write your name in your member shirt and shoes. The uniform magicians try to keep extra emergency uniform parts handy -shoes, laces, socks, shirts, gauntlets and even a shako and plume. Accidents happen. So let them know ASAP if you have a need – but do not assume that they will have enough for everyone every time. But remember, it is ultimately your responsibility to have everything you need for every competition!

Red and Blue Football Game Uniform

What are the pieces?

The Red and Blue uniform consists of a short red/white/blue jacket and black bibs, or a pair of high waisted black trousers with detachable suspenders. Marchers wear ankle length black socks, member shirt, and Drill Master shoes with this uniform. Gloves, gauntlets, shakos, and plumes are not worn. This uniform is worn for football games as directed by the band director.

When do I get it?

The Red and Blue uniform is issued on fitting day in August. Each piece is numbered and recorded on your contract and entered into the uniform magician files.

Where do I keep it?

The Red and Blue uniforms are hung on hangers marked with your name. They are organized alphabetically in closets in the marcher's uniform room.

How much does it cost?

The one time \$30/\$25 fee also covers the cost of this uniform, hemming, and dry-cleaning.

How does it get cleaned?

At the end of the season, the uniform magicians take all the red/blue uniforms in bulk and have them dry-cleaned. They are returned to their usual closets, ready to be tried on again at the next fitting day in August. If you have grown, you will be re-issued a new uniform as needed.

Pep Band Jacket

What is it?

As needed for the weather, the pep band jacket is a nylon windbreaker worn over your regular clothes for Friday night football games when pep band A or B plays.

When do I get it?

Pep band jackets will be handed out directly before the game; your jacket size and number will be recorded.

Where do I keep it?

The jacket is returned to the marcher's room closet directly after the game.

How much does it cost?

The band owns this jacket; your regular fees cover the cost.

How does it get cleaned?

At the end of the season, the uniform magicians will take them home to wash.

Are there rules about wearing it?

You are responsible for keeping track of your jacket, keeping it clean, emptying the pockets, and returning it to the closet immediately after the game.

Summer Uniform

What are the pieces?

The Summer Uniform is a white polo shirt that has a black embroidered PCMB logo, and a pair of black walking shorts. You wear white socks that cover the ankle- low sport socks are okay, and tennis shoes that have as much white as possible (swooshes, logos, stripes are OK – just do your best).

When do I get it?

This uniform is fitted and ordered in April/May. The fitting dates and times will be scheduled to coincide with spring practices. This uniform is worn for all parades and summer performances as decided by the band director.

Where do I keep it?

You keep this at home.

How much does it cost?

You will purchase and own the shirt and shorts from the band. The cost varies by year; currently the shirt is \$13.00, the shorts \$17.50, or \$30.50 for both.

How does it get cleaned?

Both shirt and shorts are easy care – machine wash and dry at home.

Are there rules about wearing it?

This is the most casual of the marching band uniforms, however, you are still representing PCMB while in this uniform. Long hair needs to be pulled back in a ponytail, boys and girls. The shirt must be tucked in at all times. Shorts must be pulled up - "low rider" shorts will be allowed. A discreet black belt may be worn with the shorts only if needed. No nail polish, watches, wristbands, ankle bracelets, or any type of jewelry is allowed.

Concert Band Program Uniform -high school band classes

Girls:

What is it and are there rules for wearing it?

Girls wear a solid black long sleeve, full-length dress purchased through the band for performances. The dress is worn with black hose and appropriate closed-toe black dress shoes. No jewelry beyond small discrete post earrings may be worn, and make-up should be discrete.

When do I get it?

Girls get measured for the dress on the August fitting day, or at a time announced by your teacher during the first few weeks of school. Delivery will be before the first concert. You are responsible for hemming and any extra tailoring you choose.

Where do I keep it?

The dress is owned by you and kept at home.

How much does it cost?

The cost varies by year-current cost is \$72. A check made out to Plymouth High School (PHS) is due at the time of ordering. It is the same dress used every year for the concert band program, so this is a one-time cost.

How does it get cleaned?

The dress is machine wash and dry at home. We recommend detergent for dark clothes.

Boys:

What are the pieces and are there rules for wearing it?

Boys wear a tuxedo, tuxedo shirt/or white long sleeved dress shirt, and a bow tie for performances. Tuxes are worn with black dress socks and appropriate black dress shoes (no black gym shoes please). Tuxedos are owned by the band and rented by you; therefore we ask that you take care of your tuxedo throughout the year by keeping it hung up, off the floor etc.

When do I get it?

Boys get fitted for the tuxedo on the August fitting day, or at a time announced by your teacher during the first few weeks of school. Bow ties are available for purchase; the white shirt is your responsibility to obtain.

Where do I keep it?

The tuxedo goes home with you and remains in your closet at home during the school year. It is returned immediately after the last band performs at the last concert of the school year.

How much does it cost?

You will be renting the tuxedo from Plymouth High School at cost of \$35/year- price includes dry-cleaning. You purchase and own the bow tie at a cost of \$5, which is a one-time expense, since it can be used every year. A check for the tux rental and bow tie (if needed) must be made out to PHS. Mrs. Lorelli will be available for hemming; current hemming fee is \$5.50. This is highly recommended. If you choose to have Mrs. Lorelli hem your pants, cash or a check made out to her is needed before the pants will be returned to you.

How does it get cleaned?

The tuxedo is dry clean only. Immediately following the last concert of the year, volunteers will set up tables to collect the tuxedos. Boys must bring a change of clothes to wear home; they will not be allowed to leave the building in the tuxedo, no exceptions! The uniform volunteers will transport all the tuxes to and from the dry-cleaners, and then store them in the band room, ready to be tried on for next year, and refitted as necessary.