

## **PCMB Uniforms. . . FAQs** (updated 8/07)

### **Black and Gray Uniform (a.k.a. competition uniform or marching uniform)**

#### **What are the pieces?**

The basic uniform consists of a pair of black 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 black marching shoes. The bibs have adjustable shoulder straps and are cut slightly different for boys and girls. When you get them they will need to be hemmed and there are specific instructions available on the proper length (please do not cut off any material). The name brand of the shoes is Drill Master, although the band is in the process of phasing out another brand that is called Dinkles (you will still hear the shoes referred to by that name by those who have been around the band for years). Certain instruments have slightly different uniform parts. The pit's jackets are solid black rather than shades of gray. Tubas wear berets rather than shakos. The gloves also vary: flutes and clarinets cut off the finger tips, saxophones 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 sheet in the "uniform magicians" binder. On that day you will also be fitted for shoes, gloves, and member shirts that need to be ordered.

Returning marchers are given their last year's uniform to try on for fitting day. Boys, in particular, will often need to be resized over the years (especially hem length).

#### **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 live in that bag and are kept in washer parent order 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 black socks to be washed and your shoes to be wiped/shined (please remember that you need to bring or wear these back 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 they live in the same closets as the garment bags. Nothing but the shako should be kept in the plastic case.

#### **How much does it cost?**

Your regular band fees cover the cost of the basic uniform and 3 pairs of gloves; additional pairs of gloves are \$3 per pair. Hemming costs are also covered by your marching band fees. You purchase the shoes at a cost of \$25, thus you own them. One member t-shirt is issued each year that is worn under the uniform. The color varies by year. Purchasing additional member shirts (\$5) is recommended, especially for Nationals.

The cost of anything you order will be charged to your marching band account.

#### **How does it get cleaned?**

Volunteer parents called washer parents, are assigned a certain number of uniforms that they are responsible for cleaning. They have specific washing instructions, but basically the uniform is made of washable wool that gets laundered after each competition. These

washer parents pick up their set of uniforms after you hang them in the uniform room and they clean them and return them to the uniform room the following week. You are responsible for cleaning your member t-shirt, socks and shoes.

### **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 (other than water) wearing it. Obviously you are responsible for taking good care of it and be very careful about sitting, leaning, brushing against things, etc. Percussion who wear braces 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 black socks. You will be issued one short sleeve PCMB member shirt. You can purchase extra member shirts or long-sleeve versions through the Monogram Factory. You will want to wear boxer shorts because for some of the long distance competitions you will be changing into the uniforms on the bus – boys and girls together. Long hair; boys as well as girls, needs to be pulled back and pinned up. No nail polish, distracting make-up or jewelry/watches. If you have pierced earrings that can't be taken out, they will need to be covered with a flesh-colored bandage.

### **Helpful hints**

Many marchers choose to have their gauntlets taped to their gloves just before a competition so that the gauntlets don't shift around – this is not required, but the uniform magicians and chaperones do this taping for anyone who wants it.

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. If you can remember to put your socks and shirt in as soon as they are laundered, you will not have that last minute scramble to find your “stuff” when you need to be out the door for the next competition.

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! Please, *please* be responsible about your uniform.

## Red and Blue Uniform (a.k.a. football game uniform)

### **What are the pieces?**

The Red & Blue uniform consists of a short red, white, and blue jacket and a pair of black bibs or high waisted slacks with detachable suspenders. You will wear black socks and marching band shoes with this uniform. This uniform actually has a solid black shako and plume, but these are rarely worn and will only be issued if needed. There are no gloves or gauntlets. You need to wear your member shirt under the jacket.

### **When do I get my uniform?**

The Red & Blue uniform is issued on fitting day in August. Each piece is numbered and recorded on your sheet in the “uniform magicians” binder.

### **Where do I keep it?**

The Red & 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 rental cost of this uniform is covered by your marching band fees. Hemming costs are also covered by your regular fees. There is a \$10 dry-cleaning fee.

### **How does it get cleaned?**

At the end of the season, the uniform magicians will take all the red/blue uniforms in bulk and have them dry-cleaned. We will return them to their usual closet in the marcher’s room, ready to be tried on again on fitting day in August. If you have grown, you will be re-issued a new uniform as needed.

## Summer Uniform (a.k.a. white polo shirt with logo and black shorts)

### **What are the pieces?**

The Summer Uniform is a white polo shirt that has a black embroidered PCMB logo and a pair of black cotton walking shorts. You wear white sport socks 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. An order form will be available. This uniform is worn for all parades: Memorial Day, Liberty Fest, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It is also worn for two performances; one at the end of June mini-camp and the August band camp Saturday performance.

### **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 \$12.25, the shorts \$17.75, approximately \$30 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. There is no hat. Long hair needs to be pulled back in a pony tail, boys and girls. The shirt must be tucked in for performances/parades. A black belt may be worn with the shorts if needed.

No nail polish or jewelry.

## Concert Band Program Uniform (high school band classes)

Girls:

### **What are the pieces?**

The girls wear a solid black long sleeve, full-length dress purchased through the band. They will wear black hose with appropriate black dress shoes. Jewelry should be minimal and make-up discrete.

### **When do I get it?**

Girls get measured for the dress order on the August fitting day or at a time announced by Mrs. Boerma and/or Mr. Whitlock during the first few weeks of school. Delivery will be before the first concert. Girls are responsible for hemming and any extra tailoring they choose.

### **Where do I keep it?**

The dress is owned by the girls and kept at home.

### **How much does it cost?**

The cost varies by year, but it is currently approximately \$70 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?**

The boys wear a tuxedo, tuxedo shirt, or white long sleeved dress shirt and a bow tie. They will wear black dress socks and black dress shoes.

### **When do I get it?**

Boys get fitted for the tuxedo on the August fitting day, or at a time announced by Mrs. Boerma/Mr. Whitlock during the first few weeks of school. We have bow ties available for purchase; the white shirt is your responsibility to obtain.

### **Where do I keep it?**

The tuxedo goes home with you and lives in your closet during the school year.

### **How much does it cost?**

You will be renting the tuxedo from the band at a cost of \$35/year, price includes dry-cleaning. The bow tie is \$5, which is a one-time expense, since it can be used every year.

### **How does it get cleaned?**

The tuxedo is dry clean only. Immediately following the last concert of the year, volunteers will set up a room to collect the tuxedos. Boys must bring a change of clothes to wear home; they will not be allowed to leave the building in a tux. 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.