

Bishop Grandin Band Uniform - Care and Use Instructions

Who is responsible for Band Uniforms?

Each student is responsible to treat the band uniform and/or concert tuxedo with the utmost care and respect. Students and their parents or guardians assume responsibility for any uniform pieces that are damaged or lost. Please read and follow the instructions for proper care and use of all uniform pieces so that the uniform can be returned, cleaned and used again next year.

Why are these instructions important?



Band competitions include judging of the band and their uniforms. Everyone must look the same and everyone must look their very best – with uniforms that are clean, wrinkle-free and in excellent condition.

The uniforms provided to members of the Bishop Grandin Marching Ghosts and Bishop Grandin Concert Band are made of the finest fabrics, selected for wear and durability. They are very expensive and they need to last for a many years. The life of the uniform depends on the care each student gives it.

What happens with uniforms during the band year?

To give students and parents an idea of the schedule for the year and what needs to be done to care for the uniform, we are including an approximate timeline and cycle of activities for maintaining the uniform during the performance season.

These instructions focus on Receiving, Getting Ready, Performing and Caring for the uniforms from October until July.

Sept - Oct

Fitting and tailoring - The Uniform Coordinator and parent volunteers seek the best fitting uniform from inventory in the September and October time frame. The band fees cover alterations to sleeves of jackets.

Oct Nov

Receiving and Getting Ready – Each student and their parents or guardians will receive the assigned uniform(s) in the October, November timeframe. Please ensure that the uniform is received, pants hemmed and additional accessories are ready for the first performance.

Nov - July

Performing and Caring – Each student and their parents or guardians are responsible for caring for and maintaining the uniform(s) throughout the performance and competition season, usually ending in July. Students must follow the rules to prepare themselves and their uniform for performances. Caring for the uniform after performing is **key** to keeping it in good condition. Finally, Each Student is responsible for **Returning** the Uniform at the end of the performance season. The uniform must be returned to Uniform Coordinator at the school.



July

July – Sept

Specialty Dry Cleaning and Storing – The Uniform Coordinator updates the uniform inventory when uniforms are returned. Uniforms are dry cleaned at a specific dry cleaner, and normal- wear repairs are made. Uniforms are stored until the next season.

Receiving and Getting Ready

Students will be given their uniform(s) to take home once all fittings are done and all fees are paid. When you get your uniform home:

- check to see that all the pieces are in the garment bag by confirming that the numbers on the uniform pieces match what is on the garment bag tag.
- contact the uniform coordinator with any questions, or mis-matched pieces.
- purchase or provide the additional items noted below.
- check pants hems and get them fitting at the correct length.(See notes below)

1 Garment Bag holds both Concert Band and /or Marching Band Uniforms. Each garment bag has the student name and identification information listed on the front label. The pants and jackets should be on hangers in the bag.

Table: Uniform Pieces	
Concert Band Tuxedo Uniform	Marching Band Uniform
Tuxedo shirt (included in fees Grade 10)	Band T-Shirt (one is included in fees)
Tuxedo Jacket (included in fees)	Jacket and Cape (included in fees)
Tuxedo Pants (included in fees)	Bibbers (pants & bib) (included in fees)
Black socks (provided by student)	Black socks (provided by student)
Dinkles (shoes) (included in fees in Grade 10)	Dinkles (shoes) (included in fees in grade 10)
Bow tie (stored at school, included in fees)	Marching Helmet, Plume and case (stored at school, included in fees)

Fitting and Hemming Marching Bibbers and Tuxedo Pants

The student and parents are responsible to hem the pants of the marching uniform (bibbers) and/or the tuxedo pants. Please ensure they fit properly as follows:

Tuxedo Pants – fitting:

Tux pants waist band rests at the waist. (Tuxedo pants do not rest on you hips! Side slides are adjusted evenly so that there is about 2 fingers of room in the front – allowing for the tux shirt to be tucked in.

The pleats on tux pants should be closed, lying flat and hanging straight without breaks.

Marching Bibbers – fitting:

Adjust the shoulder straps so that the bottom of the dart on the back of the pants falls at the middle of the buttocks.

Hemming tux pants and Marching uniform bibbers.

The bottom of hem should touch the top of the sole of the Dinkles. **Sew the hem by hand. Do not cut** excess material, just fold under and hem. **Do not use “iron-on”** seam tape. If you are unable to sew the hem contact the Uniform Coordinator.

Get Marching Shoes and Socks ready



The shoes should have the student’s initials written on the inside of the shoes. Students are responsible to supply or purchase black socks to wear with the uniform – Socks must be above the ankle with no markings or logos.

Preparing for a Performance or Competition

Note: Failure to comply with these instructions will result in the loss of performing privileges.

Garment Bag	You must be sure to bring all parts of your uniform – clean - to all performances. (refer to the Uniform Pieces Table) Please bring your uniform in your garment bag. DO NOT pack your shoes, hatbox, music or instrument in your garment bag. Shoes may be stored in the rear pocket.
Underclothing	Clean undergarments, band t-shirt and all- black socks (above the ankle).
Jewelry	No visible jewelry may be worn at any time. <u>No Exceptions!</u>
Hair	Hair must be put up securely with French braids, pins and or hairnets for marching. For Concert Band performances, make sure your hair is clean and neatly styled.

Putting on the Marching Band Uniform

Get instructions from the Drum Major when you arrive at the performance location.

You will be asked to wear Half uniform or Full uniform. Here is what these terms mean:

Half Uniform means – wear the t-shirt, black socks, marching shoes, bibbers. You may carry your jacket and helmet with the plume attached.

Full Uniform means – wear the full uniform - ready to perform.

Band T-shirt - wear under the bibbers and jacket whenever in uniform. Other T-shirts are not permitted to be worn with the band marching uniform.

Bibbers (pants) - wear with the shoulder straps adjusted so the hem falls just to the top of the sole of the shoe, resulting in little or no "break" in the pant leg. **Bibbers should only be worn with Dinkles to avoid damaging the hem.**

Jacket and Cape - Jacket zips down from the neck to the bottom at the back.
- clasp the neck clasp at the top of the Jacket

Helmet - put plume in the slot(s),
- plastic chin strap goes under the chin and the chain rests on the chin.
- hair must not be visible when the marching helmet is on.

Dinkles and socks - wear all black socks and tie your shoes so they will not come undone.

Putting on the Concert Band Tuxedo

Get instructions from the Drum Major when you arrive at the performance location.

Tuxedo Pants - Tux pants rest at the waist. The pleats on tux pants should lay flat and hang straight.

Tuxedo Shirt - is tucked into the pants.

Tuxedo Jacket - is buttoned at the front. Do not leave the button undone.

Bow Tie - will be provided and fitted by a parent volunteer and returned after the performance.

Shoes and socks - wear all black socks with your clean Dinkles or black dress shoes.

Ready to Perform:

DO NOT eat or drink anything, except water, while wearing your uniform.

DO NOT carry cell phones, ipods, wallets, etc with you in/on your uniform.

DO NOT adjust the clothing to suit your style – we all need to look the same.

Be careful where you choose to sit down when you are in uniform.

DO – Smile and stand straight and tall to represent your family, friends, fellow musicians, school, city, province and country.



After a performance:

Hang the uniform pants or bibbers on hangers. (See instructions)



Hang the jacket with the curve of the hanger facing forward. Make sure the jacket is buttoned securely so it will not slide off the hanger.



How to Hang Pants It simply takes a few seconds to make sure that your pants are in the correct position to keep them wrinkle-free. Here's how:

- 1 - Turn your pants upside down so you are holding the bottom of your pants legs.
- 2 - Match the seam on the outside of one pants leg to the seam on the inside of the pants leg. Do the same to the other pants leg.
- 3 - Pinch all four seams together with one hand and smooth the pants legs out to the sides with the other hand until both pants legs are even, and you can grab the front and back of your pants cuffs, keeping your seams in the middle. You may want to lay the pants on a clean surface or on your bed to accomplish this step.
- 4 - Slide a hanger under your pants legs until it is halfway between the waist and cuffs.
- 5 - Pick up the hanger with one hand and smooth any wrinkles out with your other hand.
- 6 - Adjust the position of your hanger if the pants begin to slide one way or the other.

Caring for your uniform

Air out the uniform



IT IS VERY IMPORTANT After wearing your uniform (whether for a long or short time), that you remove it from your garment bag and let it air dry. This will help prevent mildew, which will not come out.

Wrinkles?

Do not iron any part of your uniform. Hang it neatly to prevent wrinkles. (See instructions above)

Mud or dust?

If there are mud spots on your uniform after a performance - let them dry. After they are dry you can try to gently rub them off using a soft brush.

Tough stains?

If your uniform becomes dirty please bring it to the attention of the uniform coordinator. They will advise you on getting it professionally cleaned. **DO NOT** take it to a dry cleaners on your own.

Need repairs?

If your uniform needs repairs, such as missing snaps, buttons or broken zippers, please see the uniform coordinator well before a performance so we can fix it.

Clean Dinkles!

The best way to **clean Dinkles** marching shoes is to gently scrub them using mild soap and a lightly moistened rag.

Delicate Plumes!

Please carefully place the plumes in the helmet case and take care to close the case without catching the plume.

Shiny Helmets!



Helmets (hats) along with the plumes will be kept inside their box at school when not in use. Students will be asked to polish helmets with a clean dry soft microfibre cloth, **ONLY**, before performances. Parents supervising performances will distribute of the helmets and plumes for each performance.