

Helpful Pointers about the Symphonic Band Uniforms:

These are military style uniforms, so they need to look sharp whenever our kids are wearing them. Wrinkles and spots take away from the effect!

1. SHIRTS - Your student needs a white full-collar shirt with long sleeves that fits well. Most likely Dad's hand-me-down won't work. Boys – any major department store will have one that fits. Girls – Lands End is the best place to find one. We've also used the boys' department at Hudson Belk, but Lands End has a women's shirt that fits the bill. Button-down collar shirts are great!
2. PANTS - The pants are WHITE and get dirty on football fields. Wash them in cold water; pre-soak if the dirt is muddy. *Shout* works quite well, but never use bleach due to the green stripes on the legs. Please wash them as soon as possible when they are muddy; the stains will come out much easier. By the way, the stripes look great when the band is marching in step; not all bands are daring enough or accomplished enough to wear striped pants! Light ironing is necessary. Also, students need to wear white underwear; patterned boxers show through the fabric.
3. MORE PANTS - Your student may get a pair of pants that is too long, and yes, you need to hem them or have it done. DO NOT cut off any fabric! Just fold over and hem. We don't know when the next uniform allotment is coming from Wake County, so these uniforms may be used for another 15 years. If you get a pair that has a dirty line from the previous hem, try presoaking and lightly scrubbing before washing. Also, pressing with a very moist washcloth on top of the line can help any creases to come out.
4. SHOES - Tooth brushes and sponges with a bit of detergent or Windex work well. White shoes look best when they are white, not dingy. Come with your student for the uniform fitting, if possible, because most kids don't know how to measure for shoes.
5. JACKETS – Never wash them! They are wool and should be dry-cleaned when necessary. Check them over for loose buttons. Please re-sew any that are in jeopardy of falling off.
6. TIES – ALL students need to know how to tie their ties themselves. Enough said.
7. BELTS – The skinnier belt goes on the pants and the wider belt goes outside the jacket.
8. SOCKS – White socks that go ABOVE the ankle are required. No footies or dark socks ever! When the students perform on the stage, those ankles show and should be uniform.
9. HATS – Yes, they are beginning to look a bit dingy, unfortunately. We've found that a toothbrush with a little *Shout* or *Tide To Go* can get some of the beige out. Do take off the green cord before doing any cleaning.
10. Stripes, chevrons, cords, whistles, etc. – Mr. Albert will go over all of these in class. Stripes and chevrons require some hand sewing. Do not glue them on!
11. And finally, your student is responsible for making sure he or she has every piece of the uniform in the garment bag when we travel. Not mom, not dad. Start on Day 1 with this, and your years as a band parent will be much less stressful!