

Helpful Pointers about the Symphonic Band Uniforms:

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

1. **SHIRTS** – You need to have 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, we need to wear white underwear; patterned boxers show through the fabric.
3. **MORE PANTS** – You 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.
5. **JACKETS** – Never wash them! They are wool and should be dry-cleaned when necessary. Check over them 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. We use a Double Windsor Knot.
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 we perform on the stage, our ankles show and should be uniform.
9. **CAPS** – 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. Do not place your cap down on the top. It gets dirty when you do that.
10. **Stripes, chevrons, cords, whistles, etc.** – Ms. Montgomery will go over all of these in rehearsal.
11. Stripes and chevrons require some hand sewing. Do NOT glue them on!
12. And finally, **you** are responsible for making sure you have 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 in the band will be much less stressful!