

2017-2018 GLHS UNIFORM FITTINGS AND INFORMATION



INTRODUCTION

In order to assist each student with continuing in or transitioning to marching band, we are providing answers to frequently asked questions and general information for guidelines during the marching band season. The uniform team is excited and honored to work with our students and we will do all that we can to insure that the experience is a positive one while adhering to the high standards our Directors have for the GLHS marching band experience. All returning band personnel should bring their “box” with shoes, spats and gloves to fittings.

Questions? We are here to help you! 😊 See any director or contact Uniform Team Leader Donna Staten at 614-477-9764 or DStaten369@aol.com

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT THE FULL UNIFORM FITTING DURING BAND CAMP WEEK?

Good fittings take time. It is not unusual for a marching band fitting to take **an hour**. We appreciate your patience with the process!

If a student is returning to marching band and has previously worn a uniform, we will begin by having the student put on his or her prior uniform and make changes as needed. If the student is new to the marching band, we will begin a fitting process for all uniform pieces from scratch. It is helpful for each student to know what his or her basic clothing sizes are and what size shoe he or she normally wears.

Our uniforms contain wool. Please dress comfortably in case you have to try on several uniforms. It may be hot at fittings. Let us know if you have an allergy to wool. Please wear a t-shirt and basketball shorts to fittings, if possible. No bare armpits as perspiration and deodorant stain our uniforms.

Dressing room areas are for students fitting only but there is a waiting area available for parents and others. Thanks for understanding!

WHAT ARE THE PIECES TO THE MARCHING BAND UNIFORM?

The pieces of the uniform that are fitted to your child (at no cost to you) and kept at school are:

- Coat
- Pants with suspenders
- Hat (with detachable plume) (Sousaphones buy a beret and Color Guard wears no hat.)
- Raincoats
- Cross Belt (with breastplate and 2 other brass pieces)
- Seasonal items (such as pink gloves for selected performances)

The pieces of the uniform that are purchased by you and transported as needed by each student are:

- Black shoes (fitted by men’s sizes/adjusted for women and used for all 3 years – allow enough room for 2 pairs of socks in cold weather)
- Spats (fitted by ankle size – allow for 2 pairs of socks in cold weather) Snaps go on the outside.
- Black socks (must be tall socks – no skin visible)
- Gloves (comfort is most important) Flutes and clarinets will cut the tips off the gloves and squad leaders will instruct students about how to do this.

(Most students choose to keep their personal items stored in their shoe boxes and transport the boxes back and forth as needed from home to school for each event.)

PERSONAL CARE

- Good personal hygiene is **CRITICAL** to a professional presentation. Please be sure that your student regularly washes his or her band socks and any clothing they may keep with their band box between events, as needed.
- The Directors will establish exact guidelines for acceptable hair length and style but general rules are that all hair must be up in the hat and no hair may touch the collar of the uniform. If a student has hair longer than this, it will be necessary for them to determine how to best “put up” their hair to comply. Although we can occasionally provide hair ties, hair nets and bobby pins, it is impossible for us to assist individual students each week in putting up hair due to time constraints. Practice at home! During uniform fittings, there will be mirrors available for students who may need to work on this to determine appropriate hat size. If a student is a returning band member and has had a change in hair length, they may need a change in hat size.
- Deodorant or antiperspirant is essential and each student may wish to keep some in his or her band box.

WHAT SHOULD A STUDENT TYPICALLY WEAR UNDER HIS OR HER UNIFORM?

- All students must wear a t-shirt with sleeves under the uniform jacket – no open armpits.
- All t-shirts must have a v-neckline or a shirt notched or cut out at the throat.
- No jeans or heavy pants may be worn under the uniform – think thin layers. Only pants fitted at the bottoms or that can be tucked into tall socks are permitted. Make sure pants are not too tight for proper marching.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A STUDENT COMES TO DRESS FOR AN EVENT?

- Directors will inform students of arrival and dress times for each event and these will be posted on the website.
- Students should come with all pieces ready to go and be prepared to dress quickly and efficiently.
- Girls and boys dress in separate areas for each event.
- Each student picks up their uniform from the numbered uniform cabinet and takes it to dressing area.
- At the end of an event, students are responsible for hanging up the uniform as they will be taught with all zippers and closures intact and all brass and belts properly stored. Pants will be hung like dress pants folded at the front creases. They are numerically placed back into the cabinets by the students at the end of each event after passing inspection by the uniform team.

COMMON PROBLEMS AND “ISSUES”

- We attempt to keep on hand a limited amount of extra shoes for use if shoes are left at home but we cannot guarantee loaner shoes in any particular size.
- If a student forgets his or her gloves, socks or spats, we will have a limited supply on hand in all sizes **for purchase**. The student will see a designated uniform team member to obtain these. They can pay for them at that time or we can note their name in our account book and they can be paid for later. In order to be fair to all students, we cannot distribute extra supplies to students who do not purchase them. Please see a Director if this is an issue for you.
- If a student fails to pass an inspection on his or her gloves or spats **because they are not clean enough**, they will be asked to purchase new ones. Clean spats means all marks removed (try a magic eraser and not white shoe polish) and that the back and bottom trim areas are white with no dirt. Gloves that are stained will NOT pass inspection.
- The most difficult piece of the uniform to master is the cross belt. We will work with each student so that he or she is taught the proper way to wear the cross belt but keep in mind that it may take some practice.

REPAIRS

Each student will be asked at the end of events if his or her uniform needs any repairs. Although we examine the uniforms after each event, students should be able to point out to the uniform staff if a closure is loose, a hem is falling or if they have noticed another problem. We can all work together to insure that our band looks great on every occasion.

“AWAY” GAMES OR EVENTS

- Members of the uniform team will travel on the buses to away games to assist with uniform needs and to carry a limited number of extra supplies.
- Please note that we do not carry extra shoes or hats to away games. Although we will “help” each student pack for an away game, if they forget these or other items deemed essential by the Directors, it may mean that they do **not** march in an event.
- For most away games, students will dress in pants, spats and shoes and then pack hats and other items to carry with them on the bus in bags supplied by the uniform team. Everyone is responsible for his or her own bag.
- Because we do not want the tails of the jackets to be wrinkled, coats are carried over the arm and placed over the bus seats. Coats and belts will be put on before students exit the buses at the destination and not prior to leaving our school.

VALUE OF THE UNIFORM

A marching band uniform is worth a lot of money. Each uniform (including accessories) is worth over \$850. With well over \$200,000 in inventory, we need your help to care for the uniforms! Make sure each student is aware of the responsibility that they have to properly care for items issued to them.

PAYMENTS DUE

This is a tentative list of costs you will need to pay for the 2017-2018 Marching Band season and is subject to change. There is also a mandatory \$5.00 meal fee for picture night.

\$ 34.00 shoes (one pair should last all 3 years)

\$ 37.00 Color Guard unitard

\$ 30.00 cleaning fee per school year

\$ 11.00 spats (everyone is encouraged to buy 2 pair)

\$ 9.00 beret (sousaphone only)

\$ 3.00 gloves (everyone is encouraged to buy 2 pair)

\$ 1.00 tall black replacement socks (per pair)

Payment can be made in full at the time of fittings or a “payment due” slip may be issued for later payment. Please discuss any financial concerns you may have with a Director at your own discretion.

Thank you and have a great marching band season! GO BAND!