

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How many pairs of marching shoes does the student receive?

A. Each student (except Guard members) pays for and receives one pair of white marching shoes. Students are asked to try on their new shoes as soon as possible after they are passed out. If there is a sizing issue, please let the uniform moms know ASAP. If notified early, we can resize and order another pair. If you wait until the first time they are required to be worn and there is an issue then options may be limited.

Q. When do they wear their marching shoes?

A. Clean marching shoes are worn every time they are in uniform (jacket/bibs/etc.). Shoes may be "broken in" if desired by wearing them to a practice held at the football stadium (on the artificial turf). It is not recommended to wear marching shoes on the asphalt practice field for practice because they will become extremely dirty especially since the field was newly sealed this summer. Students should continue to wear sneakers for practices on the asphalt practice field. Upperclassmen who own several pairs of marching shoes should try to keep their new pair for contests only.

Q. How do you keep track of all the uniform pieces and who they belong to?

A. Jackets, hip capes, bibs, hats, and gauntlets are all numbered and assigned to a student. Black towels, marching shoes, travel shirts, practice T's, jackets and show shirts are labeled with the student's name.

Q. Do I have to take home my student's uniform to wash after each game/contest?

A. Students do not take home their uniforms to wash. We ask for Volunteer Uniform Washers at the beginning of the season. Each takes home 5 uniforms to wash and returns them to the Uniform Room for the next event. We will need approximately 35 volunteers to fill this critical role.

Q. How do you keep the uniforms looking so clean?

A. Washers use Mean Green to pretreat stains/cuffs/hems/collars and add a scoop of regular OxiClean and regular detergent to each load. This removes most stains/dirt. If additional cleaning is needed to remove a stain, we may use Folex (rug cleaning solvent) to treat the stain. The uniform fabric is very forgiving and relatively stain resistant.

Q. Can my student leave their marching band shoes in their cubby in the band room?

A. We don't recommend leaving marching shoes in cubbies for several reasons:

- Marching shoes tend to wander off when left in cubbies or left unattended.
- Marching shoes should be cleaned AT HOME prior to a game or contest, there may not be enough time to clean shoes before departure. Against the white uniforms, dirty white shoes really stand out on the field.

Q. How do you clean marching shoes?

- ❖ We have found the following two methods both work well (be sure to clean sides of soles too).
 - Mean Green and a sponge, wipe off shoes with a damp cloth after cleaning (cheapest method)
 - Non-acetone nail polish remover and a Mr. Clean Magic eraser, wipe with a dry cloth after cleaning.

Q. When and why do the students wear practice t-shirts?

A. Practice t-shirts may be required to be worn at Tuesday and/or Thursday night practices. Mr. Parker will let the students know when they are to wear the practice t's. The band wears gray and the guard wears red t-shirts and each shirt has a Spartan logo on the front. This allows the directors to be able to visually see any issues on the field. The logo also helps to see if someone is turned the correct direction or not. Students may also wear the practice t-shirt as their gray shirt under their uniform.

Q. What if my student forgets an item needed for their uniform or for practice?

A. As a high school student, each student must be responsible for ensuring that they have all the required items needed to perform on the field for practice or at a game/contest. Just like remembering to bring their instrument, they need to pack their bag, maybe make a checklist (and check it) to be sure they have everything. In the event they are missing an item, for example white socks (though I recommend they put at least 2 pair in their bag), they need to come to the Uniform Room. Certain extra items are available for purchase from the Uniform Room while others have a usage fee (they are borrowed and returned) and charges will be added to your student's account. Costs for items are as follows:

- White tube socks - \$2 purchase
- Practice T - \$12 purchase
- Black practice gloves - \$3 purchase
- Black golf towel - \$5 purchase
- Travel Shirt – borrow/return - \$5
- Gray shorts – borrow/return - \$2
- Jacket-borrow/return-\$15
- Marching shoes – borrow/return - \$5

Q. What if my student needs a band aid, wax for braces, ice pack, etc.?

A. They need to come to the Uniform Room or find a Uniform Mom if we're away/at contest. We have a First Aid Max and a Supply Max as well as a smaller first aid bag when we travel to away games. We carry just about everything and anything that might be needed in most situations.

Q. With so many students, what can I do to help?

A. Volunteer to help when we send out requests! As ordered items (shoes, practice t's, travel shirts, travel bags, etc.) start coming in we have to start labeling them with student names before they can be passed out. We will need help putting hanger labels on uniform hangers – 2 labels per hanger, 2

hangers per student in uniform, around 140 students = lots of help needed. At home football games, we need adult help bringing items to/from the stadium (plume boxes, hat wrap box, first aid Zuca), pluming/depluming, and passing out/collecting hat wraps. At contests – help setting up temp racks/camp area, pluming/depluming, spot cleaning uniforms between prelims/finals, cleaning up at the end to go home. And we need washer volunteers for the entire season.

As the season progresses, you will have more questions. For freshmen parents this new adventure can seem overwhelming and confusing. The best way to know what is going on is to VOLUNTEER and stay connected with Facebook / Remind and check for forms, contacts and links on BixbyBands.com! Talk to other experienced band parents, ask questions on our Facebook page or email any of the Band Parent Organization Board Members.

It will be an amazing season!

