

Marching Band Uniform Information

Some parts of the Marching Band Uniform are owned by the school (jacket, pants, shako and shako box, plume, gauntlets, and parka). Others must be purchased through the Upbeat Uniform Committee by each student and are the students' to keep (Drill Master marching shoes, black and white gloves, berets for sousaphone players, and gloves). Still others must be supplied by each student (black socks, shorts, and black t-shirt). Our school uniforms are very expensive; it is the student's responsibility to take good care of their uniform while it is in their possession. The parka, shako, and gauntlets will be sent home with the student and are the student's responsibility until they are turned in at the end of the season. A band duffle bag will be supplied for the storage of uniform items. Students need to bring their shako, parka, gauntlets, and gloves, as well as their socks, t-shirt, and shorts to every performance. The jackets and pants portion of the uniform will remain in the band room while not in use. Each uniform has an assigned number, and each student is responsible for remembering their uniform number. Uniforms must be hung properly in the band room following each performance. Uniforms will be cleaned by the Uniform Committee whenever needed; if a uniform requires extra cleaning or repair, the student will be charged a cleaning fee. Uniform clothing that is lost or damaged by a student will incur fees which are assessed by the district through the EZpay system. Shoes will be sized during fitting days, but will only be ordered and delivered after payment has been received.

The band has an official summer uniform of black shorts and a red polo shirt. The cost of the summer uniform is not included in the marching band fee, and will be the property of the band student for future seasons. These will also be fitted on fitting days. Rookies will need to purchase a red polo, black shorts, Drillmasters, and two pairs of gloves. Veterans should check their uniform items before fitting day to see if they need to purchase replacements.

Uniform Pricing for Fitting Day:

Drillmaster shoes	\$34
Red Polo	\$13
Black Shorts	\$14
Marching Gloves	\$5/pair
Field Commander Gloves	\$3/pair
Field Commander Polo	\$29
Sousaphone Berets	\$26

If a piece of the uniform is lost or damaged the student will be assessed a replacement fee.

Estimated Uniform replacement Cost:

Jacket	\$250
Pants	\$85
Shako	\$65
Plume	\$30
Hat Box	\$15
Parka	\$85
Gauntlets	\$35

Fitting Days

- Scheduled during band camp, each section is assigned an evening. Students must come when their section is being fitted.
- Students need to wear light shorts for wearing under the pants.

Purchase Process

Students need to bring a check made out to Lakota West Upbeat Club or cash to pay for their uniform items. Items not paid for will not be issued until payment is received. You may pay via PayPal on our website or by mailing a check made out to "Lakota West Upbeat Club" to Lakota West Upbeat Club, P.O. Box 1637, West Chester, OH 45071. You may also pay by check on fitting day. If payment is made via PayPal, bring the receipt to fitting day as proof of payment.

Performance Day Expectations

- Arrive EARLY. Students must be completely dressed and in place at the report time.
- Uniform racks will be available 45 minutes before report time. We will be available to sell gloves or cover the occasional forgotten items.
- The uniform calls for no visible jewelry.
- No facial hair, starting Friday of band camp.

Standards for Wearing the Uniform

You must be in full uniform for band performances unless otherwise instructed. This will allow you to feel proud and to make a good impression when you are out in the public eye. Moreover, the band is judged and scored on appearance in all competitions. Each marcher must wear the uniform correctly. Inspection will take place before every performance. Section Leaders will inspect their sections and Field Commanders will inspect Section Leaders.

- Clean gloves, polished shoes, a shiny instrument and well-maintained equipment are all very important.
- Shako must be worn on the top of your head, slightly forward, so the bill is just above the eyebrows and there's a two finger space between it and the nose and the strap is firmly fastened under the chin. Percussion wears the strap on the chin but not in the mouth. Sousa players wear berets.
- All hair must be securely inside the hat or short enough that it does not touch the collar of the jacket. Elastic bands, clips, hairnets, or skullcaps are suggested. This is YOUR responsibility. The Uniform Committee has emergency hair supplies only. If you aren't sure about your hair, ask BEFORE the first performance. No facial hair, make-up, or jewelry is permitted. All earrings and other piercings must be removed or covered. Flesh-toned gauges are permitted; all others must be covered.
- A black t-shirt with sleeves must be worn under the uniform jacket (no sleeveless tanks). A design is permissible if it is not visible under the uniform with arms raised. UnderArmor is also permitted for colder performances.

- Shorts or boxers must be worn under the uniforms - there are no dressing rooms - everyone changes together. Black tights, leggings, or thermals are permitted for colder performances.
- Pants are worn above the waist so the top of the pants is covered by the jacket. Hems MUST NOT drag on the ground. Use the suspenders to pull the pants up, if needed, to keep hems off the ground. Tell a uniform mom IMMEDIATELY if your hem needs adjustment.
- Plain black crew socks are required for all performances. "Shortie" socks are not acceptable-nor are socks with any other color than black or socks that fall down to show skin. Socks are not supplied by the uniform committee, but must be brought by the students. All band members must wear Drill Master marching shoes.
- Students (except percussion) wear black and white gloves which are ordered during uniform fitting. Additional pairs may be purchased from the Uniform Committee during the season. Clarinets may cut the finger tips out of their gloves. No other holes are permitted.
- It is the student's responsibility to properly hang the uniform on the racks after performances following the direction of the uniform committee. It is also their responsibility to dry out the shako (hat), parka, and gloves after performances if needed. Failure to do so could result in Uniform Detention or paying to replace damaged uniform parts.

The Uniform Committee works hard to make sure the Lakota West Marching Firebirds look their best at all performances, and we expect the students to do their best to take care of their uniforms and make sure they have everything they need when they arrive at a band event. If there are any questions or concerns regarding Marching Band uniforms, contact Keri Rampton at uniforms@lakotawestbands.com.