

RED OAK MARCHING UNIFORM WEARING GUIDE

Parts of the uniform:

1. Coat
2. Pants (also called “bibbers”)
3. Baldric (the sash looking thing that attaches to the coat)
4. Hat (worn with a plume that is passed out prior to half-time then turned back in)

Also:

- the black “Drillmaster” marching shoes
- black socks (long—not ankle socks; bring from home)
- black gloves (bought from band room; \$3.00/pair, limit 1 pair at a time to control inventory)

- The uniform is worn OVER your KHAKI SHORTS and your SHOW SHIRT (or other identified shirt before the shirts come in)
- The uniform stays here at school (doesn’t go home)
- You bring from home: your black shoes, your black socks, and your black gloves (in addition to your khaki shorts and your show shirt) ** Have your NAME on your personal clothing items! (especially shoes!!! A silver sharpie inside the shoe should work well)

Procedures and Rules

- By inspection time each week you are here in time to put on your uniform. Take your uniform off the rack, unbutton the coat snaps where the baldric attaches at the top (about 3 things have to be unbuttoned) Place the garment bag back on the hanger.
- The pants go on over your shorts. They have adjustable straps in case they’re a bit long or short. The coat goes on over your show shirt. Button all items back the way they came (assistance sometimes needed). * The pants are designed to hang higher than normal dress slacks – you will feel like you’re wearing “high-waters”. The goal is to have zero “break” in the pant, so it has to fall just above the top of your shoe.
- Inspection is in FULL uniform: hats on, gloves on, black shoes and socks out, instrument out, music with you. Inspection infractions count against your grade and include: wrong socks, missing music/flip folder, late to inspection, wrong shirt, dirty instrument, missing gloves, etc. Inspection infractions may also lead to “stand-offs” – an opportunity to practice standing at attention for 5-10 minutes to help you remember to meet all aspects of inspection the next week.
- Hats are worn snug, without a left/right wobble. Measure the brim of the cap to your nose at the width of 2 fingers. It will feel too low, but that is the look we’re going for. Hats go into the hat boxes once we are in the stands. *Tubas wear a beret instead of a hat; front ensemble players do not wear a hat.
- Long hair (girls OR boys) MUST be pinned up to go up under the hat/beret AND must stay up throughout the game. Hair must fall to above the marching coat collar line (not touching) or it must be pinned up.
- No nail polish, no visible jewelry (including rings, ear rings, etc.). Make-up must be basic and base-colored only – no colored lipstick, no colored eye shadow, etc.
- No accessories may be worn that are not a part of the actual uniform. This includes ball caps, headbands, bandannas, sunglasses, etc. The only exception would be sunglasses on a marching contest afternoon when we are not performing.
- About 20 minutes before inspection: an extra pair of gloves may be purchased. No more than one pair may be purchased at a time; These gloves are \$3.00 per pair. *This stops 5 minutes before inspection.
- You remain in full uniform (except for hats and gloves) at all times during an event, on the way back home on the bus, etc. At no time do you un-do any buttons unless given specific permission to do so by a DIRECTOR. On a warm day at a marching contest, we often will remove the coats as a group, but this is about the only time we ever remove the coats.
- Cold weather guidelines: because of the need to look uniform, regardless of the weather, it is not very often that we will actually put on a jacket or blanket over the uniform. Instead, we dress in warm layers under the uniform. On a chilly evening, you are permitted to layer warm clothing under the uniform, as long as it doesn’t show. A hoodie, for example, would not be appropriate under the uniform. Hand warmers, carried in your hatbox, are fine. Ear-warmers, ear-muffs, etc. are approved on a case-by-case basis – and they must be subtle – not “garish”, preferably in maroon or black. In the event the weather gets even colder (i.e. – into the 40’s or below), we would go to a “stage 2” plan in which we may also consider a jacket over the uniform.
- When we get back to the band hall, the uniform is carefully removed and placed back on the hanger (pants hung correctly, jacket snaps all re-fastened with baldric attached). This takes a little time, but MUST be done properly. The garment bag is hung on the hanger (not around the uniform) in the back of the uniform allowing them to air out for a couple of days. (We generally put them back around the uniform on Tuesday or so) * The uniforms will be cleaned “in bulk” 2 - 3 times during the season.
- Take all other clothing items BACK HOME, or you can put select items in your marching locker. Do not leave shoes, gloves, shorts, shirts, etc. anywhere that is visible, such as in the instrument room, band hall, percussion room, etc.