

# MARCUS BAND UNIFORM CARE

The Marcus Band is proud to wear band uniforms which are able to be **MACHINE WASHED**. While we are very excited about the prospect of home cleanings (and fewer dry cleaning costs for band families), we want to emphasize the importance of **ALL** details regarding home washing procedures.

Families will be responsible for the proper care of these items, as they are LISD property. Replacement fees for permanently soiled or damaged items will be collected in such circumstances.

Thank you in advance for following all instructions.

## *Cleaning the Jackets, Bib Pants, and Gauntlets:*

*\*Please take care to wash the band uniforms following a load of whites or light-colored laundry. Do not wash the band uniform following a dark load or a load including new garments.*

- Always wash bib pants separately from the jackets/gauntlets
- Wash uniforms alone- do not wash with any other garments or linens
- Always turn the uniforms **inside out** to wash them
- Jacket shoulder "wings" should be folded back to prevent scratches to buttons
- Gauntlets should be **Velcro-ed inside out** to prevent scratches on buttons
- Use **COLD water**- never wash in warm or hot water
- Machine wash on the **gentle/ knit cycle**
- Use only **non-chlorine detergent**
- DO NOT use liquid fabric softener on the band uniforms
- You may use "Spray and Wash" and other NON-chlorine stain removers when washing. Many chlorine detergents are harsh and have a bleaching ingredient that will cause even colorfast fabric to migrate.
  
- Both jacket and pants should be **hung to dry** IMMEDIATELY after wash cycle
- Always hang the pants and jacket properly on **hangers** – pants should be folded on the crease and not the seams
- Gauntlets should **be laid flat** to dry completely (towel dry buttons if necessary)
- NEVER put a damp uniform in the hanging bag

*\*Note: Please wash gloves and band t-shirts SEPARATELY from the uniform items!*

### ◆ *Please DO NOT Dry Clean the Gray Uniform Pieces:*

Dry Cleaning IS NOT recommended for the fabric type and color of our uniforms. Colors remain brighter with machine washing and chemicals used in dry-cleaning can often affect the material from which the uniforms are made. *(Note: Students will also receive a pair of Black Pants which will need to be dry-cleaned at designated times throughout the season.)*

*Drying Instructions on next page...*

*\*\*Please have a professional tend to repairs of minor seam rips or loosening trim. We appreciate our members taking care of these items before issues worsen.*

### *Drying/Ironing/Pressing:*

- ◆ The uniform MAY be put in the dryer on a COOL, GENTLE setting. **Caution:** Do NOT use a warm or hot dryer setting! These settings will remove the press. Use a cool setting. When dried on a cool setting, uniforms will require very little, if any, iron touch-up. Remove them from the dryer immediately at the end of the cycle and place them on a hanger. Please dry the uniforms *inside out* to help protect the wings from scratching and stains. Take care not to dry the uniform in a dryer that has recently been used to dry new, dark garments, or items like rugs or tennis shoes. Any type of scuffing on the inside of the dryer can stain the band uniform.
- ◆ **Extended Shoulders (Wings) and Collars:**  
Touch up pressing on extended shoulders and collars should be done after each wash. Fold extended shoulders back onto the shoulder during washing and drying. Also do this when transporting uniforms. *Folding shoulders and collars back allows these parts to hold shape much better.*
- ◆ Touch-up pressing on pants may be desired occasionally, or the pants may be professionally pressed (not dry-cleaned) after several washings and dryings. Be sure to dry garments completely before storing.

### *Shako Hats:*

- ◆ Hand wash all parts of the hat with a mild liquid cleaner diluted with cold water.
- ◆ The vinyl and plastic materials are such that they may be cleaned with a non-abrasive polish to restore the original luster. Use Armorall, multi-surface Pledge, or other products specifically designed for polishing vinyl and plastic.
- ◆ Scrub soiled parts gently with a toothbrush to remove dirt particles.
- ◆ Allow the hat to drip dry. DO NOT place in a dryer or near artificial heat.
- ◆ Do not dry clean, do not use any spot-cleaning chemicals, and do not bleach the hat.

### *Gray shoes:*

- ◆ Our shoes are meant to feature a matte texture rather than a high-gloss finish. Therefore, it is not necessary to polish shoes with shoe polish or any other gloss product. Doing so could damage the sealed-paint finish.
- ◆ Shoes should be wiped down gently with a soft cloth after use to remove dust. If necessary, cloth may be wet with cool water and mild soap to remove stubborn dirt.
- ◆ Use caution when scrubbing- the paint could scratch or rub off if too much force or abrasive material is used.

## *In the event of a stain...*

It is important to remove any stains as soon as possible. Please see the following guidelines for stain removal:

Blot stains with water, solvents, and cleaning agents- do not rub!

- A. PRE TREAT STAINS BEFORE WASHING- apply stain treatment and scrub with a toothbrush or other like tool before the item is placed in the washing machine. Use regular laundry detergent (without chlorine; should be "safe for colors").
- B. Non-water hand cleaners like those used in the garage or automotive environments can be used as a pre-treatment for grease, oil, tar, or paint. This product dissolves the oil-base stain before it is set in. However, this must be used BEFORE any water-base treatment.
- C. "Lestoil" takes out most stains.
- D. "Simple Green" - For hard-to-remove grass stains or dirt rings on collars and sleeves (This product is found in the automotive department). The spray-type is recommended.
- E. "Carbona" has a variety of removers called "Stain Devils". Listed below are the different types of stain removers:
  - "Stain Devil" - Make Up and Grass Remover
  - "Stain Devil" - Blood and Milk Remover
  - "Stain Devil" - Coffee, Tea and Cola Remover
  - "Stain Devil" - Chewing Gum and Glue Remover
  - "Stain Devil" - Ink and Crayon Remover
- F. "Whink" - For removing rust stains.
- G. Aerosol hair spray or rubbing alcohol will remove ballpoint ink stain.

## **Important:**

*Please have a professional tend to repairs of minor seam rips or loosening trim.  
Please have these items taken care of before issues worsen.*

## **MARCUS BAND**

### *Alterations for band uniforms*

- **Bib Pant alterations:**

- To preserve fabric for future alterations, please *do not cut* any fabric off of the bottom of the pants.
- It is crucial that the bib pant shoulder straps are adjusted properly before evaluating pant length.
- In addition, the pant length should be determined while the student is wearing band shoes and socks.
- The student should stand up straight and look forward as hem is being evaluated to insure proper pant length and placement.

- ◆ *LENGTH: Uniform pants should be hemmed so that the bottom edge of the pant leg contacts the lowest point of the threaded seam just below the rim of the shoe (look at shoe from the side to find threaded seam):*



Bottom of pant leg should reach lowest point of this threaded seam



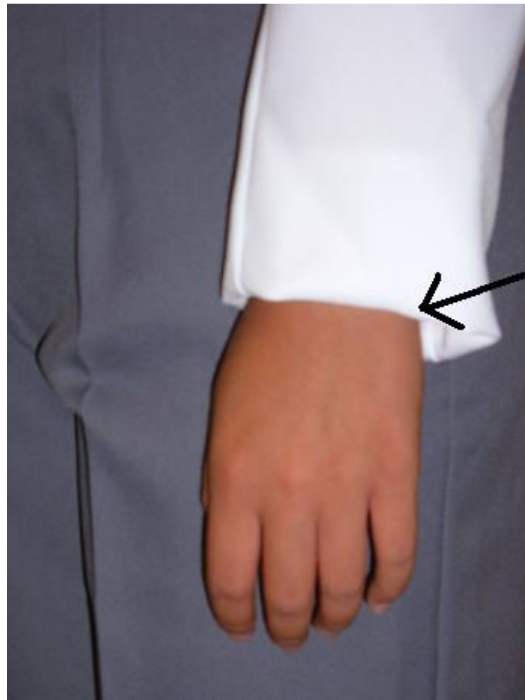
Correct pant length falls to lowest point of stitched seam

- ◆ Black pant lengths should also be adjusted if necessary to achieve the same contact point on the marching shoes.
- ◆ The hem on both the gray and black pants should be sewn with matching thread. It is suggested that students take their uniforms to an alterations specialist, or take advantage our booster club's hemming service.

**All students should have pants alterations completed in due time for in-class uniform inspection on September 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**If there are any questions about pant length and adjustment,  
please contact Mr. Simon.**

- **Sleeve lengths** can be adjusted via the snap system on the inside of the sleeves and near the wrists. Sleeves should be adjusted so that the end rests at the wrist break when arms are relaxed at the side of the body.



End of sleeve rests at  
wrist break when  
arms are relaxed

## **MARCUS BAND Marching Uniform Undergarments:**

- The FIT of the uniform bib pants should not be altered as a result of undergarments. The desired look is a smooth look and perfect fit for all uniform pieces.
- The best recommendations for undergarments are Lycra bicycle shorts, or spandex shorts (such as Under Armor). Most common color choices will work (black, white, gray, navy blue).
- Other types of very thin, pocket-less shorts may be worn if desired. Nylon (pocket-less) athletic shorts are generally thin enough, but should not be so long as to bunch up when worn under form-fitting bib pants. Any shorts worn under the uniform should be form fitting and comprised of a thin fabric.
- Two Marcus Band T-shirts for 2009-10 (white "Game Shirt" and gray "Show Shirt") have been provided for students to wear underneath the uniform. The white t-shirt is to be worn for all football games, and the gray shirt is to be worn at competitions unless otherwise noted.
- Band t- shirts should be tucked down smoothly as far as possible to prevent wrinkles and bunching.

# MARCUS BAND UNIFORM STORAGE:

- ◆ Hang all uniform pieces properly on hangers immediately after use. Leave uniform bag unzipped; the bag should be pulled back around the uniform so that it may dry properly. *Never stack a uniform which is damp or wet from water or perspiration.*
- ◆ When placing the jacket and/or pants on a hanger, do so in such a way that the hanger hooks to the right when viewing the uniform from the front. This will enable the name cards to be visible when garment bags are hung in a row.



- ◆ ALWAYS HANG UP the UNIFORM when not in use.
- ◆ GAUNTLETS are to be placed at the bottom of the main compartment in the garment bags, flat and un-rolled.
- ◆ SHOES and socks will be stored in the BACK ZIPPER POUCH on the garment bags. NOTE: It is very important that jacket shoulder wings be folded up to avoid damage from the weight of the shoes pulling downward! NEVER store gauntlets in the rear zipper pouch with shoes!