

Questions? Send a message to uniforms@soudertonbigred.org.

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After marching in the rain ...

Marching band events take place outdoors. Sometimes it rains and your uniform gets wet.

When this happens:

You must take your entire uniform out of the garment bag and hang every piece on a separate hanger so that everything can dry.

If you leave your uniform in a garment bag:

- Your uniform may mildew. This will be unpleasant for you and can permanently damage the uniform.
- Dye may bleed from one area to another. This is especially true for the white stripe on the tunic and the hood of the raincoat. When dye bleeds, it is permanent. If you permanently damage your uniform, you may be required to pay for it. (See *Replacement costs*, page 10.)

No matter what Facebook says:

Spritzing with Febreze is not the same as cleaning. Putting cloth in the freezer does not clean it. It doesn't even remove odors.

New in 2019

	Now...	Then...
Fittings	Began during the summer; will finish during Band Camp.	At Band Camp.
DC Parade	The band members will wear bibs, tunics, and guard parade uniforms.	Harleysville Parade: The band wore member shirts and shorts.
Returns	TBD	Uniforms were returned at May parade practices.

Who wears what

Some parts of the uniform are provided for students and other pieces are bought by the families.

Color guard Color guard wears a different uniform each marching season. There is a separate uniform for parades. The Head Color Guard Instructor will communicate directly with guard members about the show and parade uniforms.

Provided:

- Show uniform
- Parade uniform
- Raincoat

Family purchase:

- Black BRMB member shirt
- Garment bag
- Guard gloves
- In some years: compression wear, tights, and so on.
- Guard shoes
- In some years: Parade shoes

Drum Major

Provided:

- Tunic
- White bibs
- Shako.
- Plumes (black) are distributed before each event and collected at the end.

Family purchase:

- Black BRMB member shirt
- Garment bag
- White gloves
- White Dinkles
- White crew or knee-high socks

Musicians

Provided:

- Tunic
- Black bibs
- Shako
- Plumes (white) are distributed before each event and collected at the end.
- TBD: Pit players may shakos in parades.
- Sousa players: Beret

Note for the battery (drum) members: Harness for snare, tenors, and flubs are worn under the tunic; harnesses for bass drums are worn over the tunic.

Family purchase:

- Black BRMB member shirt
- Garment bag
- White gloves
Everyone except Battery members. Pit/Honor Guard members may wear white gloves in parades.
- Black wrist bands
Worn only by Battery and, at director's discretion, Pit members.
- Black Dinkles
- Black crew or knee-high socks

Tech crew

Provided:

- Raincoat

Family purchase:

- Black BRMB member shirt

Where to buy and estimated cost

Item	Where to buy	Cost
Black BRMB member shirt	Band Store <i>Now available in performance/wicking fabric as well as the traditional heavyweight cotton.</i> Students can wear either shirt.	\$11 (heavyweight) \$13 (wicking) \$15 (2X) <i>You can use Student Credit</i>
BRMB garment bag	You can use <i>any</i> garment bag. Black BRMB bags are available in the Band Store.	\$18 <i>You can use Student Credit</i>
Dinkles, Guard shoes	BRBB, via Finishing Touch (our uniform vendor) <i>A uniform representative will measure students during the first week of Band Camp, then order and deliver shoes to the school. You pay the BRBB for shoes at the Parent Meeting.</i>	\$34 - \$37 <i>You can use Student Credit</i>
Gloves	Guard Gloves: <i>Contact Head Color Guard Instructor</i> White Gloves: Band Store <i>Brass and woodwind players wear white gloves. Clarinet players will trim off the finger tips. Pit members do not wear gloves for games or competitions, but may wear gloves in parades. Check with MB Director. Battery members do not wear gloves.</i>	\$15 (estimate) \$3/pair <i>You can use Student Credit</i>
Black wrist bands	Band store <i>Battery members wear black wrist bands. Pit members may wear black wrist bands. Check with the Pit Instructor.</i>	\$8/pair <i>You can use Student Credit</i>
Socks	Anywhere you wish. Any solid black sock that comes up to at least mid-shin height (crew or knee-high) is acceptable. Drum majors wear white socks.	
Tour shirts	<i>What is a tour shirt?</i> It's a t-shirt that has a show design on the front and member names on the back. The shirt changes every year. These are extremely popular with the students and, unlike the member shirt, which is for students only, family and friends can also buy and wear the tour shirt. Orders for tour shirts will be taken after the start of the season.	\$12 - \$20
Other guard items	The guard uniform changes each year. If you need to purchase anything specific, the Guard instructor will let you know what, if anything, you need to purchase.	

How to care for your uniform during marching season

If you need to clean anything during the season: refer to “Mid-season cleaning directions”, below.

Raincoats

Routine care

- Transport the coat in your garment bag.
- If it's wet: Hang it up where it can air dry. Do not leave it in your garment bag. It will mildew.
- Always: Hang it up. If it's too long to hang straight while it's inside the garment bag, take it out.
- If anything gets on the hood (hair products, makeup, hot chocolate, mustard...): wash it.
- Most spills can be wiped off with a damp cloth.

Repairs

- If it needs more attention, send a message to uniforms@soudertonbigred.org.

Guard uniforms

Routine care

- Transport the uniform in your garment bag.
- If it's wet: Hang it up where it can air dry. Do not leave it in your garment bag. It will mildew.
- Always: Hang it up and air it out after each wearing. If it's too long to hang straight while it's inside the garment bag, leave it outside the bag until you take it back to school.
- As often as the Guard instructor tells you: clean it.

Repairs

- If anything needs attention, tell the Guard instructor at guard@soudertonbigred.org.

Tunic and bib (a.k.a. *coat, jacket; bibber, pants, jumpsuit*)

Routine care

- Hang them up. Always. Neatly. Not scrunched.
- After each wearing, hang them up where they can air out. Do not leave them in your garment bag.
- Transport them in a garment bag. You can buy an inexpensive garment bag from the Band Store or use one of your own.
- If anything is spilled on your uniform—especially on the tunic's white stripe—have it cleaned.
- If the tunic acquires an “aroma”, have it cleaned.
- If the removable collar band is grungy-looking, hand-wash it.

Repairs

- Minor repairs such as seams/hems that come undone or zippers/snaps that need attention: you can fix these yourself or take the uniform to a tailor.
- Tears, holes, stains, or anything that you have questions about: send a message to uniforms@soudertonbigred.org.

Shakos and boxes, berets

Routine care

- Shakos: After every wearing, take the shako out of the box and let it air out. If you don't, and it was wet, you will eventually see black mildew spots.
- Berets: Sousaphone players do not wear shakos. Instead, they are issued black berets. After each wearing, let the beret air-dry. This helps to prevent mildew.
- If anything gets on a shako or beret, spot clean by blotting with a damp (not wet) cloth.
- If blotting does not work, gently brush with a soft brush, such as an old toothbrush.

A word about mildew: We have shakos that are now unusable due to mildew. This is not good. Take the time to let your shako air out. Your nose may very well thank you.

If your shako or shako box has a problem

- Any problems – things like a missing or broken string, a loose “plume holder”, a missing button cover, and so on: send a message to uniforms@soudertonbigred.org.
- Shako boxes take a lot of abuse. If the hinges or the catch are broken, or if the box won't stay closed, send a message to uniforms@soudertonbigred.org.

Dinkles and guard shoes

Most students find the Dinkles and guard shoes to be comfortable. For extra support or cushioning, try an insert/footbed. These are sold at many shoe stores and sporting goods stores.

Routine care

- Use a separate bag to carry your Dinkles/guard shoes. Do not carry them in your garment bag.
- Gently brush off dirt and mud as needed.
- Air out after each wearing. Do not leave them in an enclosed space (unless you like the way they smell, and you want other things to smell just like them).
- You can use polish to restore a mild shine and remove scuff marks.

Mid-season replacement

- If your Dinkles/guard shoes wear out or you outgrow them, send a message to uniforms@soudertonbigred.org.

White gloves and wristbands; guard gloves

Routine care

Air out after each wearing. Wash as needed. They will get discolored and sweat stained.

Mid-season replacement

- The Band Store keeps white gloves and wrist bands in stock. In an emergency: we have a small supply of used gloves in the Uniform Closet. You can borrow a pair for a game or competition.

Mid-season cleaning directions

You are responsible for any necessary mid-season cleaning.

About dry cleaning

For mid-season cleanings, *you can use any dry cleaner.*

The end-of-season cleaning has been done by Kowloon Cleaners in Harleysville, on Route 63 near Hennings. They are familiar with our uniforms and the “mystery stains” that can appear on the tunic stripe. If a stain does not come out the first time, they (and other cleaners, as well) often re-clean it at no charge.

Raincoats: Machine wash only, hang dry

Confusingly, the raincoats have two care labels sewn into them. The two labels don't quite agree with each other.

- One label says you can use color-safe bleach: **Don't!**
- One label says you can use warm water and dry the coat using low heat: **This.Is.Wrong.** The raincoat itself will not be damaged by warm water or a low heat cycle. However, **heat may cause the red printing on the hood to begin to peel off.**

Exception: If the hood will not otherwise come clean, wash in lukewarm water.

Here is what you do:

1. Unzip the hood, take a look at it and the lining. Look over the rest of the coat, too.
 - Yellow or orange spots: these may be caused by hair products or makeup. Use laundry spray.
 - Grey/brown/black marks: most likely dirt or grime picked up from the sides of cars, floors, the bus, bleachers, and so on. Use laundry spray.
 - If the coat was worn in the rain, you may see water stains. Use laundry spray.

✓ Use laundry spray

Use a spot treatment such as Shout/Spray-n-Wash/and so on, and gently work it into any spots. On the printing: Do not use a brush or rub anything abrasive over the letters.

✓ Ignore red/pink marks, small dark blue/black marks

Many hoods have areas where red dye has bled into the white. Ignore it. The pink and red marks are permanent. The manufacturer has told us it is not possible to fix this. Nothing we have tried works. Some coats also have small dark blue/black marks that look like ink stains on the sleeves, fronts, or backs. You won't have any luck getting these spots out, either, so just ignore them.

X Do NOT use anything other than laundry detergent or laundry spray

Do not bleach. Don't soak the hoods in OxiClean, borax, washing soda, vinegar, or *anything else* unless you want to turn the entire hood vaguely pink.

2. Check the pockets. (We've found gloves, money, tissues, soft pretzels, candy, medicine, paper...)
3. Re-zip the hood. This will prevent the zipper teeth from catching on the letters.
4. Machine wash, cold water, delicate cycle.
 - Do not use bleach.
 - Do not use color-safe bleach (One of the tags says that you can. **Don't.**)
 - Do not use fabric softener.
5. Best results: Hang to dry. If you put it in a dryer, use an air/no heat cycle. Heat may cause the red letters to peel. (Exception: If it won't be dry when you need to use it, try low heat for no more than 10 minutes at a time.)

Tunics: Dry clean only

Dry-cleaning prices vary and can range from \$4 to \$7. Plan on \$10 to \$14 for both the tunic and bib.

Tunic collar liner. Look at the inside of the collar. You will see a liner attached by snaps to the inside of the collar. Before you take the tunic to the cleaners, remove the liner, hand wash it, then hang to dry. After the tunic has been cleaned, snap the liner back in. *Why?* It doesn't happen often, but these snap-out collar liners can be lost during the cleaning process. If your liner is lost, you will have to pay for a replacement.

Spots and spills. Tell the cleaner about anything that has spilled on the tunic (especially on the white stripe), whether it is visible or not.

About spots and spot cleaning

Stuff gets spilled. When this happens, *take the tunic to the cleaner* and have the spot professionally removed. *Always tell the cleaner about the spot and anything you have done to the spot.*

Note: If the cleaner adds "we cannot remove this spot without damaging the fabric" tag: tell us.

Spot cleaners such as Shout Wipes or stain sticks can leave a residue on the fabric. This residue can then react with dry cleaning solvents. If this happens, a "mystery stain" --- often a blue-gray blotch --- may appear on the fabric over time, either on its return from the cleaner or even weeks or months later. When this happens, the tunic has to be cleaned again.

If you have a small, surface-only spot (in other words, one that has **not** penetrated the fabric), try spot cleaning. Spot clean such a spill as soon as possible:

- Dab with a slightly damp white cloth.
- Do not saturate with water. Saturating an area with water can (1) spread the stain deep into the fiber and/or (2) create a water stain. Penetrating stains and water stains are difficult to remove.
- If the spot does not immediately come off, you need to have it dry cleaned.

Bibs

Black bibbers numbered 100 through 299: Dry clean only

- Dry-cleaning prices vary and can range from \$4 to \$7. Plan on \$10 to \$14 for both the tunic and bibs.
- They all have sewn hems (in other words, no snaps).
- There are no special instructions; just take them to a dry cleaner. Dry cleaning the pants typically costs between \$4 and \$8.

Black bibbers numbered N1 and up: Machine wash only

These bibs are machine-washable and have snap hems. **Do not dry clean.**

- **Unsnap the hem before washing.** *Why?*
 - (1) Lint collects in the folded/snapped hem. Unsnapping it allows the lint to be rinsed out.
 - (2) Unsnapping the hem will help it to relax, which will help the pants to look better longer.
- Machine wash, separately, in cold water in a delicate/gentle cycle.
- Do not use fabric softener.
- Hang dry. If you put them in the dryer, use a no-heat setting and a short cycle. Using a heat setting (even low) will break down the weave of the fabric and void the manufacturer's warranty.
- If needed: steam lightly or press with a medium iron using a pressing cloth. See below for complete pressing information.

White Drum Major bibbers (sewn hems, no snap tape, with or without a red stripe): Dry clean only

- Dry cleaning prices vary and can range from \$4 to \$7.
- These bibs all have sewn hems (in other words, no snaps).

If a mid-season cleaning is necessary (they are white, and white gets dirty):

Ask the cleaner to check the hemline. If it has collected grime or dirt, the hem may need to be removed before it is cleaned (see *End of season cleaning*).

About removing the hem before dry cleaning

Yes, this is a nuisance. So why do it? Two reasons:

- Grime and dust accumulate at the bottom edge of the hem. If the hem is pressed when a grime-line is present, the line can become permanent. When the hem is removed, there is a much greater chance that any grey, dingy line that the fabric has acquired can be removed.
- Lint collects inside the hem. Trapped lint shows through the white fabric, giving the appearance of a blotchy stain. When the hem is let out, any lint that has collected inside will be rinsed out.

White Drum Major bibbers with snap hems: Machine wash only

These bibs are machine-washable. **Do not dry clean.**

- *Unsnap the hem after each wearing and before washing. Why?*
 - (1) Lint collects in the folded/snapped hem and can often be seen through the fabric. Use a brush to remove accumulated lint.
 - (2) This will help the hemline to relax, which will help the bibs look better longer.
 - (3) If the hemline has collected any dirt/grit/grime, you can see it only if the hem is unsnapped. See below for details on removing/reducing hemline blech.
- Machine wash, separately, in cold water in a delicate/gentle cycle.
- Do **not** use fabric softener.
- Best results: Hang dry. If you put them in the dryer, use a no-heat setting and a short cycle. The manufacturer tells us that using a heat setting (even low) can break down the weave of the fabric and void the warranty. It will also set in any hemline dirt/grime that did not come out. If the bibs just won't get dry, use a low setting for no more than 20 minutes.
- When needed: steam lightly or press with a medium iron using a pressing cloth. Do not let the iron touch the fabric.

Shakos and berets: Spot clean only

Shakos and boxes

- You can spot clean the shako. Dab at spots using a clean, white, damp (not wet) cloth. If the spot doesn't come out, tell us about it.
- Grunge and dirt inside the shako box: Wipe it out.

Berets (sousaphone players only)

Sousaphone players do not wear shakos. Instead, they are issued black berets. After each wearing, let the beret air-dry. This helps to prevent mildew (which you wouldn't be able to see, but you could definitely smell). Check the label to see if the beret can be cleaned.

Guard uniforms

Guard uniforms change each year. The Guard instructor will give you specific cleaning information for your uniform.

White gloves, guard gloves, and wristbands; Dinkles and guard shoes

These things belong to you. Clean them often to reduce the yuck and smell factor.

- White gloves/black wristbands: Machine wash (warm or cold water) or hand wash, hang dry.
- White gloves: If your white gloves look grungy even after you've washed them, try soaking them. OxiClean, washing soda, Borax, or even just plain detergent are all safe to try.
- Guard gloves: follow directions on the label or packaging.
- Shoes: Wipe with a damp cloth; use a soft brush to get rid of dirt. Air out often. Use polish to resotre a mile shine and remove scuff marks.

What to do at the end of the marching season

2019-20: The band will wear uniforms at the DC Parade. The return date will be determined in the spring.

Before return day: Take stock of your uniform

1. Check the numbers: Every part of your uniform has a number.
 - Your uniform assignments are shown on the "Stuff" tab in your Charms account.
 - If the numbers do not match, let us know before the return date.
2. Raincoats:
 - Empty the pockets.
 - Leave the masking tape labels with your name; there is one on the inside of the coat and another on the hanger.
3. Take five minutes to look over your tunic and bib, then note anything that needs to be addressed:
 - Cuffs, hems, seams, snaps, and hooks: Are the stitches solid? Does anything need to be mended?
 - Do the zippers work well?
 - Is the inside pocket empty?
 - Are there any stains on the tunic and/or bib?
 - Did you spot clean anything on the uniform? If so, tell us. *Why?* Dry cleaning solvents sometimes react with spot cleaner residue, causing "mystery stains" to appear, which means the uniform has to be cleaned again.
4. Shakos and shako boxes:
 - Shakos: Are there spots on the shako? You can spot-clean it.
 - Shako boxes: Check the handle and hinges. Are they in good condition? Tell us if they're not; we will set it aside to be fixed.
 - Take everything out of the shako box except the shako, the string for the inside of the shako, and – if it came with one – the plastic bag.
 - You can leave your name on the shako box.
5. Hangers:
 - Hangers are provided for tunics/bibs, raincoats, and guard uniforms. The hangers are marked with your name.
 - You can leave your name taped on the hanger.
 - If your hanger is broken, just tell us when you return your uniform. (You don't need to return the broken pieces.)

Return your uniform

When? How do I find out? What if I can't make it?

Return dates are TBD. You'll be notified of the dates and times for uniform returns in the spring. If you cannot make your Uniform Return date, send a message to uniforms@soudertonbigred.org. We know that life is busy and we'll work with you. **But we need to know if you won't be there.**

On return day

Bring all assigned uniform parts and hangers to the hallway outside the band room.

Musicians and Drum Majors	Color guard	Tech crew
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raincoat • Shako, shako box • Beret • Tunic • Bib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raincoat • TBD: Show uniform • Parade uniform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raincoat

Uniform pieces that are lost, unreturned, or damaged beyond repair

The SASD views returning your uniform as a financial obligation that must be fulfilled each school year.

- If a uniform is not returned, the school has the option to withhold grades and to bar graduating seniors from participating in the graduation ceremony.
- If you have lost or damaged beyond repair any school-owned uniform component, you are financially obligated to reimburse the BRBB for the cost of a replacement.

Replacement costs

Item	Cost	<i>Some examples of "normal wear and use"</i>
Tunic	\$260	Drum harnesses can create wear spots on the front of tunics.
Tunic collar liner	\$5	
Bibs (black or white)	\$75	Crease lines from previous hems.
Shako	\$40	The slot at the top of the shako where plumes fit has a plastic insert. This insert sometimes breaks or is missing. Button covers may be missing.
Shako box	\$12	Hinges may break. Clasps/handles do not always stay closed.
Raincoat	\$90	Hoods: Red dye from the rest of the coat, especially at the stitching, has bled through on many of the hoods. This cannot be removed.
Guard Parade Uniform	\$80	
Guard Show Uniform	\$80	