

## The “Care and Keeping” of our uniforms

### Uniform Cleaning

The uniforms are machine washable. Do **NOT** dry clean. Each item is listed below on cleaning:

- Gauntlets – wash in mesh laundry bags (like a lingerie bag) or a zippered pillow case to protect the buttons from being scratched. Pretreat stains with Spray and Wash stain stick or spray, or OxiClean spray. Do NOT put in the dryer. Velcro together over a hanger and hang to dry. Gauntlets and gloves are to be stored in the back pocket/pouch of your uniform garment bag.
- Jacket and Bibbers – wash jacket and bibbers separately on delicate cycle with cold water. Use a detergent with no additives. Jacket is to be TURNED INSIDE OUT, ZIPPED UP to protect the buttons from being scratched. Pretreat stains with Spray and Wash stain stick or spray, or OxiClean spray. Dry the jacket and bibbers separately on permanent press setting. **REMOVE FROM THE DRYER AFTER 5 MINUTES** and hang to dry overnight. Hang the bibbers with seams together, folded over a hanger, to dry overnight. This will make for a nice pleat down the front and back of the legs.
- Gloves – gloves can be washed the same as gauntlets. Do not place in the dryer. Velcro around a hanger and hang to dry overnight.
- Use wooden or plastic hangers.
- DO **NOT** use bleach or bleach alternative of **ANY** kind. **AGAIN, DO NOT DRY CLEAN.**

### Uniform Adjustments

- The Bibbers (pants) must be hemmed to the appropriate length. Please check the length OFTEN during the season and adjust the hem as needed. The hem needs to hit where the shoe body joins the sole in the back, where the pink line has been drawn in:



Some bibbers have snaps along both seams, but still may need to be tacked in order for the hem to not sag. **DO NOT CUT THE FABRIC**, fold it up. **DO NOT USE HEM TAPE.**

- Make sure shoes are clean and polished to look their best. **DO NOT** place your shoes in your bucket with your shako. This will deform the shako and your shoes as these buckets do not accommodate both. The bucket is for your shako **ONLY**. You may place your shoes in the bottom of your garment bag. Shoes **MUST** be placed in a plastic bag (like a grocery bag) before placing them into the garment bag so as to avoid getting polish on the uniform.

- Jacket sleeve length can be adjusted by utilizing the snaps sewn inside along each seam. Try the jacket on inside out, fold the hem up and snap.
- **DO NOT** make permanent alterations of **ANY** kind to the uniform. Consult with the Uniform Chair, if needed.

SHAKO (HAT) – your shako is to be kept in its bucket when not in use.

Your child will be provided one pair of black socks from the band, before their first competition. You will be provided with the brand to purchase additional socks for your child.

**AFTER PERFORMANCES/COMPETITIONS:**

When arriving home, open your shako bucket and allow to air out for a day or two to avoid mildewing. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR UNIFORM AT THE SCHOOL.** Your uniform **MUST** be taken home and washed. Do NOT leave them closed up in your garment bag so as to avoid mildew. Take your shoes out of the garment bag and allow them to air out to dry for a couple of days also.

**PLUME (BIG WHITE FEATHER)** – These are to **NEVER BE TAKEN HOME.** If you notice for any reason whatsoever that your child has inadvertently brought a plume home with them, please contact Jen Crusan and let her know. She will make arrangements to get this up from you, no questions asked!!

We need to look our best at all competitions. The uniform is something that the band is also judged on. We must look in top shape from the time we enter the field so as to make an AMAZING first impression!! We don't want to come off as "sloppy". That first impression can be everything!!

***Our Viking Band practices many hours to deliver their incredible performances! Please remember to take time to make sure your uniform looks incredible too! It is important to look as good as we sound and march!! Remember, IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME!! GO BAND!!***

Contact our Uniform Chairperson with any concerns:  
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