

# WSHSB CONCERT SEASON DRESS CODES

For Practice, Dress Rehearsal and Concerts

(last revised 9/21/2008)

## OVERVIEW

The WSHSB is a Christian home schooled children's band. As with any organization, there are rules. Each individual in the band not only represents himself and his family, but Christian homeschoolers. Individual band members offer a *visual* testimony of the values, deportment, character and focus of the WSHSB at large. The following dress code is not a judgment on individual dress styles or personalities but is a requirement for membership in the WSHSB organization for the purpose of appearance, unity and discipline.

There are opportunities for self-expression and individuality in the WSHSB: performances for auditions, solo/ensemble contests, concert opportunities as well as numerous service and musicianship opportunities. These are positive and acceptable, non-visual ways to stand out in our organization.

If an individual chooses to become a member of the WSHSB band, he will be required to comply with the dress and behavioral codes of the band. The following dress codes are a requirement for membership in our organization. **They are not optional.** If this code is beyond what a member thinks he can comply with, it would be better for both him and the band that he not join.

## DRESS CODE FOR PRACTICES

We will hold parents responsible to insure their child's personal appearance including clothing provide a fitting testimony to a Christian home school. We should honor the Lord through what we wear. When a prospective home schooling family visits us, they come to evaluate our band to see if it is a good fit for their family. One way they judge the band is by how our individual members look. Outfits that are immodest, too tight, short, loose, torn, contain inappropriate messages or symbols, and accessories that attract undue attention are not acceptable. Any hair color that is not a naturally occurring shade is also unacceptable. Parents, please show appropriate consideration. Band members; please remove any hat before taking your place at band practice. No one should be put in the awkward position of dealing with, or being told their appearance or dress is inappropriate at band practice or other public appearance.

If a student comes to band dressed inappropriately they will be given an XXL t-shirt to wear for the duration of rehearsal.

## A UNIFORM LOOK

As in many disciplined groups (i.e., sports teams, religious organizations, drum corps), a dress code is established, respected and followed. We have a set uniform. The goal is to provide a clean, neat uniform appearance to provide discipline. We strive to become one band, one look, one sound. In order to do this, no one member's appearance should stand out. We are a group with a common goal and focus. Women have the option to wear pants or skirts, but the shirt, bow tie and cummerbund or jacket are required, as specified. Unlike other bands and groups, we do not require you to purchase uniform accessories nor do we charge a rental fee for these items. Damage or loss will result in a replacement fee. However, we do require that the dress code be strictly adhered to.

The Summer Marching Dress Code is slightly different from Concert Dress and is described in detail on the **Summer Marching** webpage.

## CONCERT DRESS CODE:

- White, woven, long-sleeved, button-down dress shirt with pointed collar, which must be buttoned all the way up to the neck to accommodate bow ties. Shirt must be long enough to be tucked-in. No exposed midriff.
- No knits, pullovers, t-shirts, tank tops, turtlenecks, mocks, blouses with ruffles or puffed sleeves, nor tight-fitting shirts will be allowed. No satiny, shiny or sheer material.
- Only solid white or flesh-tone undergarments to be worn under dress shirts.

- Black conservative dress pants. No tight-fitting, denim/jeans, low-rise, or Capri-style pants. There should be no ornamentation such as studs, rhinestones or embroidery. (WSHSB has pants available for lending, if needed. Please contact director.)
- Girls have the option of wearing a conservative, modest, below the knee or longer skirt, with only small slits if necessary. No denim or leather. See more info regarding skirts at the end of this list.
- Girls wearing a skirt for a concert should wear flesh-colored hosiery. (This differs from the marching dress code.)
- Black, opaque, dress/trouser socks must be worn by anyone wearing pants. Socks must be long enough so no color other than solid black is visible below the hem of the pants, when seated. Therefore, no black nylon/hosiery knee-highs for ladies.
- Black leather shoes of a conservative style with a low heel and sole. Shoes must be solid black with no other colors. If shoes are laced, laces must be black. Ladies' shoes must cover the heel, toe and sides of foot. No open toes, heels, etc. No gym shoes, sandals, boots or flip-flops.
- Red bow ties (if wearing, band provides) *Watch Rehearsal Notes for any changes.*
- Red cummerbunds (if wearing, band provides) *Watch Rehearsal Notes for any changes.*
- Symphonic members wear blue jackets, provided by the band, unless otherwise instructed.
- Award medals must be pinned on the red award ribbon, which is worn on the left side of the shirt (Cadet, Concert Junior and Concert Senior) or jacket (Symphonic). The top of the ribbon should be even with the lowest tip of the collar point.
- Jewelry should be limited to a wristwatch, small rings (so they cannot be seen by the audience), and small earrings (less than one-half inch in diameter). Boys are not allowed to wear earrings.
- Any hair accessories such as barrettes or headbands may be solid red or white, or must match the student's hair color.
- Please, no outstanding makeup, nail colors, hairstyles, or trendy fashions that attract attention to a student's appearance over that of the band as a whole. No unnatural shade of hair color.
- Remain in your concert dress, until you leave the event. Shirts are to stay on and tucked-in. Bow ties and cummerbunds should also be left on unless they are being collected immediately after the performance.

### **REGARDING SKIRTS**

Some have expressed difficulty in finding longer length skirts for girls to wear at concerts. Here are three links to websites that carry concert dress items. Please use your own judgment as to which site to use or do a search for other concert dress sites.

[http://www.ecbensonassociates.com/products/formal/concert\\_choral\\_attire.html](http://www.ecbensonassociates.com/products/formal/concert_choral_attire.html)

<http://concertdress.com/>

[http://www.band-martaccessories.com/formal\\_concert\\_wear.html#skirts](http://www.band-martaccessories.com/formal_concert_wear.html#skirts)

The band director reserves the right to deny any student's participation in a performance due to inappropriate dress.

### **JACKET AND PANTS FITTING**

A Jackets and Pants Fitting/Exchange is held on an evening or two in the first trimester. The location is the Borow's home in Winfield, not far from the intersection of Roosevelt and Winfield Roads. The date(s) is on the **Calendar** and in the weekly Rehearsal Notes. If you already have a blue band jacket and/or pair of black band pants, you need to try on the jacket and/or pants before the fitting date(s). If you have outgrown your jacket, return the dry-cleaned jacket, in the cleaner's bag with cleaning tags/receipt and attached. Pants being returned should be laundered.

New Symphonic Band members, who do not have a blue band jacket, will need to make an appointment to come to a Jacket and Pants Fitting/Exchange to be fitted for a jacket. Any band member, from any level, who does not own a skirt or pants that meets the dress code criteria, may borrow a pair of black band pants and be fitted for them on the same dates. The pants we have are mostly Junior High sizes.

Email or call Mrs. Helen Herbst if you need to exchange or pick up a jacket or pants so she knows how many people to plan for and how many volunteers to recruit for assistance. She can also give directions to the fitting at the Borow's. **DO NOT CALL** the day before a performance and expect an exchange or fitting.