**Meridian High School Band
Marching Uniform Commitment**

In the past 5 years, the district and booster club have spent a great deal of money to purchase our fifty uniforms. We will use them for marching band. It is crucial for the care of the uniform and the professionalism of our image that each student takes responsibility for the following guidelines.

Students need to provide:
 **- FULL LENGTH black socks - with no advertisements.** NO ankle socks, whatsoever
 - A non-colorful T-Shirt with short sleeves or underarmor - no tank-tops under the uniform.
 - Wear bike shorts under your uniform for the ease of changing in and out of uniform.
 - No jeans or baggy shorts will be worn under the uniform.
 - Students may be instructed to have alterations done on the uniform (hemming pants, etc)

**Marching Band:**
Students are "on duty" while in uniform - it's not play time. **To preserve our professional image:**
Every member of our team will be in FULL UNIFORM or HALF UNIFORM - No one person is to get out of uniform unless the entire group is instructed to do so. We cannot look sloppy and disorganized in the public eye. Students should not expect to always be comfortable - to present a professional appearance, we have to give up some of our comfort for the time we are in uniform.

* No Jewelry of any kind - remove all earrings, nose rings. Avoid makeup as it may damage the uniform.
* Long hair is to be put into a **single braid.** We will need braid technicians.
* No ball caps/sunglasses in FULL OR HALF uniform.
* No food or drink in uniform under any circumstances. Water is ok. Students will eat before getting into uniform and after we are done.
* No Horseplay or roughhousing in uniform.
* Don't run or swear - act with maturity and professionalism while in uniform.

When we depart the bus in full uniform, and while in transit, in the public eye, members of the unit will be silent. Play time is over – the utmost professionalism is mandatory – Meridian is a class act. The look in your eye is determined and focused. We travel as a unit, we behave as a unit, we are the envy of other bands, just by how we conduct ourselves. **SILENCE IS POWER**

Shakos are to be held only one way, in the left hand – palm facing up, strap hanging, plume straight up, instruments will be in the right hand using a ‘pistol grip’. Percussion will travel with sticks/mallets/cymbals in the right hand. Shakos are either put on or removed as a group – never individually.

Students are responsible for the care of their uniform. If damage of any kind happens to their uniform, they will be responsible for the replacement cost. Students must protect their own uniform - any damage will be charged to them.

Replacement costs
**Total Replacement Cost - Fall 2018 - $292**
Coat - $140
Pants - $100
Gauntlets - $20
Drillmaster Shoes - $30
Gloves - $2
Socks - $4

**To hang up the uniforms:** Fold the pants along the creases, as you would hang good dress pants. The jacket goes on the hanger with the front of the jacket on the concave part of the hanger. Gauntlets and Shoes should be in a shoe bag or shoe box - not left in your garment bag.

Proper uniform guidelines are a part of the performance grade. If there are issues or a student refuses to obey the expectations, they will not be allowed to wear the uniform. Maintaining a professional image and reputation long term is more important than setting a precedent of being sloppy and unkept, so students who don’t care to follow the rules will not participate and will receive a failing grade for the performance.

**Formal Concert Band Attire**

**Concert attire is all black.** Gentlemen are to be in **black slacks, black shoes and socks, a black button up shirt. Ladies are in their choice of a black skirt or dress which covers the shoulders and knees while seated, black slacks and a black top with black shoes.** Jeans are never acceptable. Keep in mind; concerts are about the music, not about personal fashion. Accessorize, but no ‘bling’. Your accessories must not take attract attention away from the ‘group’. No excessive makeup and no hats. Your responsibility is to be as uniform as possible, and to not stand out.

If there are questions, ask Mr. DeGrace. The attire we choose must not take away from the musical experience. We must represent a professional appearance at all times. Also, please review what the Meridian School District considers appropriate attire. Please make your choices within these guidelines.

**Full-Department Casual Concert Attire**

The Music Boosters purchased white polos for the purpose of performing at Disneyland. We may use these for events that are less formal. We will wear black slacks, black socks, black shoes with these Polos. Please wear WHITE undershirts – White has a tendency to be a bit see-through, please take precautions.