

### **Bell Cover Instructions**

Hello Marching Bees!! Hello parents!! We have created a video for the use and care of the bell covers. I think we might all be on email overload. However, for those who prefer written instructions...this is for you!

1. Bell cover use. When putting bell covers onto instruments, please push one side of the instrument all the way into the cover, and then stretch the elastic by pulling the opposite edge around to the other side. Trying to pull the cover around both sides of the bell at the same time over stretches the elastic and makes the task harder. This method will help your cover last longer.
2. Reversible fabric. Please use the tent fabric side out for daily rehearsal use, because it's more durable. The tent fabric is the side that has visible squares in the texture of the fabric. Directors may ask you to reverse the covers to the silky lining side for performances, for a more polished look.
3. Writing names on the covers. Please consider writing your name or initials on your bell covers. Silver or gold marker will work best. Please place your name or initials on the part of the cover that is gathered for elastic, by simply flattening that area out...pushing the fabric to either side. By doing this, we will be able to conceal this writing, and keep it hidden for performances. Do not write your name on the middle part of your cover that will show on the flat part of your bell, when the instrument is being played.
4. Bell covers should be washed after each use. Please wash these bell covers regularly with laundry detergent. We prefer that they be washed after each use, to prevent the spread of coronavirus.
  - a. Washing instructions. Please wash your bell covers in warm water, gentle cycle, or by hand to make them last longer. However, if one finds it's way into a normal cycle...don't panic...it should be just fine.
  - b. Drying instructions. Please tumble dry low or air dry. Medium and hot settings are VERY likely to damage the fabric of your bell cover.
5. Everyday storage. Please store your clean covers in a ziplock bag, if possible. This will keep them clean and dry and help you distinguish clean ones from the dirty ones.
6. Bell covers are important. Please try not to lose these bell covers! I know the little ones (flutes, clarinets, and soon oboes) may be particularly hard to keep track of. Do your best!! These should have the same level of importance as your cell phone in terms of keeping track of them! Volunteers have put hundreds of hours into making these for you! Please respect their time, as if they were standing next to you! If you play a flute, clarinet, or oboe, please see a director for replacement of a lost cover. I'm making extra because they are so small. However, I want to caution all instruments that I will soon be closing the "bell cover factory" in my home. These are limited edition, custom covers that cannot be purchased commercially. In order for us to continue to match throughout concert season, you've got to show good stewardship of these covers!

Wishing you all a safe and healthy marching and concert season! We are so proud of you!

**Fondly, Michelle McGrath and your Bees Band Boosters**