

Thursday, July 23, 2015
RE: Concert Attire for 2015-2016

Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra Parents:

Based on the input we received from our students and parents, new orchestra attire is an **investment** needed to continue to position the Gahanna Orchestras for success. We've all heard the phrase "Dress for Success" and we've seen the confidence boost that just the discussion around new attire has generated among students.

At the April 13 GLIMB (Gahanna Lincoln Instrumental Music Boosters) meeting, we received approval to move forward in obtaining new orchestra concert attire for the 2015-16 school year, replacing the existing attire that is more than 20 years old.

We researched many different cost sharing models from different school districts, and the model that will seem to work best for Gahanna Orchestras is to have the student musicians own their own Orchestra attire.

After considering options from multiple vendors, and comparing the value and quality of each, **Cousin's** was selected as the attire vendor due to the quality and affordability of their options. Cousins' retail catalog provides an inclusive tuxedo package for **men** at \$101.00; including: (1) fitted jacket, (2) trousers, (3) tuxedo shirt, (4) bow tie and (5) cummerbund. The tuxedo and accessories will be owned by the student and could be worn not only for the 3-4 orchestra concert occasions each year, but also for prom, homecoming or other formal occasions. (In comparison, one night of prom tux **rental** can range from \$175 - \$225.)

Similarly, the **women's** attire is also a good value. The floor length, long sleeve black dress selected for both symphony and chamber girls is \$64.00 regular catalog price, with an additional \$6.00 cost for Chamber girls to add a white pearl necklace to their ensemble.

We recognize these are unexpected costs, which is why we're making you aware a few months ahead of the fitting and ordering of the new attire. We also are offering a first year discount and **prorated rates** by 2015-2016 class as follows:

Original	Soph. -10%	Junior -20%	Senior -30%
\$101 (Men)	\$ 90.90	\$ 80.80	\$ 70.70
\$64 (Women)	\$ 57.60	\$ 51.20	\$ 44.80

At the start of the school year, each orchestra student will be professionally fitted (August 19 & 20) for orchestra attire for purchase, and payment will be due at that time.

The committee is also looking at options for future years to include a "**Swap Meet**" or "**Buy Back**" opportunity for graduating musicians to donate or sell their attire to others who may need to purchase attire or change sizes. In addition, we are researching ways to continue support from GLIMB to offset costs with the discount we're able offer this first year.

We're grateful to have the support of our parents, the school district administration and the energy of our students to continue to propel Gahanna Orchestras to new levels. Upgrading the concert attire is a great step to recognizing the wonderful commitment and professionalism of our student musicians.

If you have questions or concerns about concert attire, please let us know.

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Orchestra Attire Parent Committee

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