

**BAND HANDBOOK**

**I. BAND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

*\*CHARACTER FIRST, SKILLS SECOND*

- 1) We are a performance based class that fulfills the goals and objectives of a standards-based music education program. There will be many concert opportunities that will lead to a greater understanding and appreciation for music.
- 2) We provide opportunities for social, intellectual, and emotional growth. We hope to help you develop into a responsible, caring, and contributing citizen of the community.
- 3) The band is a team sport and everybody's contribution helps the group accomplish its goals (or win). There are no starters or substitutes because everybody works together at the same time to achieve a common goal.

**II. BAND ROOM RULES**

*\*TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER, AND TAKE CARE OF THIS PLACE.*

- 1) Come to class on time and prepared - always bring your instrument, music, pencil, etc.
- 2) Food, drink, candy, gum, and lozenges should not be consumed in the band room.
- 3) Respect others and their property. Show Aloha Spirit. **Say "please" and "thank you."**
- 4) We have a wonderful facility so help keep it that way. Place all chairs and equipment neatly in order. Throw away all trash in the rubbish can. Damaging or defacing the band building or equipment will not be permitted.
- 5) Demonstrate proper behavior in the classroom.
- 6) Be considerate of the teacher's requests for assistance with tasks around the band room.
- 7) Only band students are allowed in the band building. Non band students cannot come in.

**III. BATHROOMS**

- 1) Only band students are allowed to use the bathroom. *Please ask first.*
- 2) Return the key when you are done using it.
- 3) Our restrooms are the cleanest on campus, please keep it clean.

**IV. PRACTICE ROOMS**

- 1) Practice rooms are only for students who are practicing their instruments.
- 2) *You may use the practice rooms but must ask for permission first.*
- 3) Turn off the lights and pick up your trash when you are done. Keep the rooms clean.

**V. DRESS CODE FOR CONCERT PERFORMANCES**

In order to present the band as a team, it is important that we follow the band dress code for all performances. **If you're not in uniform, you won't play in the concert. The band shirts will be sold by the Maui Waena Band Boosters.** *\*No jackets and headwear allowed.*

- 1) **Symphonic Band (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**
  - a. Band uniform aloha shirt (\$30)
  - b. Long **black** pants - ankle length (No long shorts, no stripes on the pants.)
  - c. Socks and shoes (No sandals, slippers, etc.)
- 2) **Beginning Band & Concert Band (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**
  - a. Band uniform shirt (\$10)
  - b. Long **dark** pants - ankle length (No long shorts, no stripes on the pants.)
  - c. Socks and shoes (No sandals, slippers, etc.)

## VI. COURSE CONTENT AND GRADING POLICY

- 1) See syllabus (separate paper)

## VII. GRADING

Grades are posted online (INFINITE CAMPUS) and in class (by student ID number):

A = 90 – 100%: Achievement exceeds established standards/criteria

B = 80 – 89%: Achievement meets established standards/criteria.

C = 70 – 79%: Achievement approaches established standards/criteria.

D = 60 – 69%: Achievement is well below established standards/criteria.

F = 59%: Achievement is well below established standards/criteria. Little or no work completed.

***You will be asked to complete the following tasks each quarter:***

- 1) Daily class participation:
  - a. Music Theory/class assignments (worth various points depending on assignment)
  - b. Written and/or playing exams (worth 10 points per test. Playing exams are performed in front of the class to practice performance skills and can be retaken.)
  - c. Daily class instrumental performance/participation (worth 1 point daily)
- 2) Instrument and supply inspection\*
- 3) Weekly Practice Charts \*\*
- 4) Sectionals/Full Band Rehearsals\*\*\*
- 5) Concert Performances\*\*\*\*

## \*INSTRUMENTS

***\*TAKE CARE OF YOUR INSTRUMENT AND YOUR INSTRUMENT WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU***

Instrument and supply inspections will be held periodically. Please follow the instrument care guidelines (to be provided). Consequences will be based on the school-wide behavior plan.

- 1) You are responsible for your instrument and case. Treat it with proper care.
- 2) Maintain a clean instrument and care for equipment. Be ready for inspections.
  - a. Brasses: spit rag/container, valve/slide oil, soft cloth.
  - b. Woodwinds: minimum of 2-3 good reeds, cork grease, rag/swab, soft cloth.
  - c. Percussion: 1 pair of drumsticks and 1 pair of mallets labeled with your name.
- 3) Never leave your instrument unattended. Do not play another person's instrument. Put it back in the assigned area when it is not in use.
- 4) **If your instrument doesn't work let your teacher know!** Don't try to fix it yourself.
- 5) A price list of supplies (mouthpieces, reeds, oils, mallets, etc.) will be sent home. If you need to replace any of the items in the kit, then it can be purchased from the band. **You must buy a band method book (\$8.00), bring a wipe rag (woodwinds & brasses) and spit rag/container (flutes & brasses).**

## \*\*WEEKLY PRACTICE CHARTS (1 point per week)

In order to steadily develop and improve a physical and mental skill in anything, daily practice is important (This DOES NOT include rehearsals or sectionals). The weekly practice chart is on the website and must be signed by a parent/guardian and turned in every Monday. No credit will be given for late or unsigned charts, or if the practice time is less than thirty minutes. You can earn more points for any extra practice time recorded (additional 30 minutes = ½ point, 3 points max.)

**SPECIAL NOTE: Be aware that the practice chart format will change once in awhile.**

- Beginning Band (Period 2)= 60 minutes/week
- Concert Band (Periods 1 & 6) = 90 minutes/week
- Symphonic Band (Periods 3 & 4) = 120 minutes/week

## \*\*\* SECTIONALS AND FULL BAND REHEARSALS (1 point per practice)

Attendance to rehearsals are required. If you can't make it or will be late, then a parent/guardian signed note is expected. Only valid excuses will be accepted (i.e. Doctor's appointment, illness, family emergency, etc.) If there are conflicts with other activities (i.e. sports, religious restrictions, tutoring, etc.), inform Mr. Kiyonaga so accommodations can be made. If you miss too many rehearsals or disruptive/disrespectful, then you forfeit your opportunity to play in the concert(s). **Rehearsal schedules are given ahead of time and posted on the band website.**

**\*\*\*\* CONCERT PERFORMANCES (15 – 20 points each)**

Attendance to performances are required because concerts allow us to apply the concepts and skills developed in the classroom. There are musical, social, and educational experiences achieved in performances that do not occur in class. If there are conflicts with other activities (i.e. sports, religious restrictions, tutoring, etc.), inform Mr. Kiyonaga so accommodations can be made. If you miss a concert performance, then you must submit a valid parent/guardian signed note as soon as the concert date is known. **Failure to participate in concerts will result in a lowered class grade and exclusion from optional band activities. If you have been suspended, you cannot participate in band activities (band trip, banquet) within the same semester. Concert schedules are given ahead of time and posted on the band website.**

**Why do we have to do these rehearsals and concerts?**

- 1) Performances are how musicians share their work with others and learn teamwork.
- 2) Our classes are comprised of students of all levels of ability who are learning different instruments and those classes tend to be big (40-50 students). It is difficult to properly meet the needs of everyone within the school day.
- 3) The Maui Waena Band has a tradition of excellence and it is our job to maintain that tradition to the best of our ability. Any time we perform for the community, we are representing the best our school has to offer.
- 4) Students are grouped into several different classes and we must meet after school in order to put the entire group together.

**VIII. BANDS**

*\*THE LONGER YOU STAY, THE MORE YOU BENEFIT*

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band (period 2)**

- Perform in at least two concerts
- Purchase your own music books and supplies
- Participate in the band program's fundraisers

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert Band (periods 1 & 6):**

- Perform in at least four concerts
- Purchase your own music books and supplies (if needed)
- Participate in the band program's fundraisers
- The instruments assigned will be better quality
- Invited to the Band Banquet (May).
- Opportunity to be invited to the Symphonic Band depending on musical ability, academics, attitude, and demonstration of the General Learner Outcomes (GLOs)

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Symphonic Band (period 3 & 4):**

- Perform in at least six concerts
- Purchase your own music books and supplies (if needed)
- Participate in the band program's fundraisers (**You benefit the most**)
- The instruments assigned will be our best quality
- Nominate and elect student officers (leaders)

- Our activities include working with the Maui High School Band, Maui Middle School Massed Band activity, concert exchange with Washington Middle School Band, community service projects, the Oahu Trip (April) and the Band Banquet (May).

## **IX. BAND WEBSITE:**

[www.mauiwaenaband.org](http://www.mauiwaenaband.org): Includes calendar, handouts, listening lab, etc.

## **\*INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ONLY**

### **I. THE MAUI WAENA BAND BOOSTERS**

#### ***\*OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON THE SUPPORT OF PARENTS***

The Maui Waena Band Boosters is a nonprofit organization that supports the band program. **All band parents are considered members.** Many band activities will need parent volunteers. A letter containing forms and volunteer information will be distributed at our General Band Parent Meeting at the beginning of the school year. Please complete and return the Parent Volunteer Form. Examples of opportunities for parent involvement include: fundraising, chaperoning, providing transportation, planning, etc. The Board of Directors meets once a month from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm in the band room. We invite you to attend our meetings to share your thoughts and ideas in improving the band program. Please support your child by being a volunteer in one of our committees:

- 1) Band Booster Board of Directors (Parents meet monthly to plan activities for the year.)
- 2) Transportation of Band Equipment (Parents with trucks, vans, SUVs, trailers)
- 3) Chaperones (Parents who can chaperone student socials, band trip, service projects, etc.)
- 4) Fundraiser (Parents willing to help plan and assist in coordinating our fundraisers)
- 5) Hospitality (Parents who provide refreshments for activities, leis for guests, etc.)
- 6) Other (Parents who can provide support in other areas)

### **II. HOW PARENTS CAN HELP**

#### ***\*YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS IMPORTANT!***

- 1) Be patient and supportive of your child's daily practicing and praise them for their effort. (They'll sound better - we promise).
- 2) Encourage your child when the going gets rough. While some aspects of music are learned easily, others require intensive, repeated study.
- 3) Make sure your child keeps the instrument in a safe place and in tip-top condition with all of their necessary supplies (reeds, oils, etc.)
- 4) Assist your child by setting a regular time and place for practice. Please avoid using practice time as a form of punishment.
- 5) Help your child to be on time for all band activities and attend their performances. Your child has worked very hard to prepare for the concerts.
- 6) Notify the teacher if your child will be absent or late for rehearsals, concerts, and activities. Communication is very important.
- 7) Stay informed so that you are aware of upcoming activities. Check your child's school planner, the band website and refer to your Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
  - a. Infinite Campus: All updates are made on Friday.
  - b. Band website: [www.mauiwaenaband.org](http://www.mauiwaenaband.org): calendar, handouts, listening lab, etc.
- 8) Help your child keep up with their other school work. Poor grades can prevent your child from participating in activities.
- 9) Talk to the teacher so that we can better support your child.

- 10) Be an active and enthusiastic volunteer at our band activities.
- 11) Encourage your child to continue band in high school.

### **III. FINAL WORD: TO THE PARENTS**

Many hours are spent outside of the normal work day by the teachers, band booster parents, and volunteers to coordinate activities for your child. We will try to give your child the most meaningful and educational experience possible this year. Please remember that your child is one of many students in the band and we will try to be fair to each and every one of them. If you have any questions and concerns, please call the band office at **727-4298** between 7:15 am-3:15 pm. We look forward to working with you this year.