



# Moanalua Middle School Band

## Student Handbook 2023-24

<https://www.moanaluumiddleschoolband.com/student-handbook--forms.html>

### **Teachers:**

Mr. Ryan Howe - Band Director

Mr. Steven Agasa - Halftime Band Director

### **Contact Information:**

Address: 1289 Mahiole St.; Room K-2; Honolulu, HI 96819

School Phone: (808) 305-1289

Email: mmsbandk2@gmail.com

Band Website: [www.MoanaluaMiddleSchoolBand.com](http://www.MoanaluaMiddleSchoolBand.com)

**PASSWORD:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Philosophy, Values and Benefits of the MMS band program:**

1. Students, parents, & teachers positively support each other through the MMS TRIBES AGREEMENTS (Mutual respect, appreciation, attentive listening, and right to pass).
2. Develops strong musical fundamentals: rhythm, note reading literacy, and embouchure (mouth formation on mouthpiece).
3. Use music as a medium to develop humanity: self-discipline, teamwork, character, responsibility, compassion, contributing members in our band and community.
4. Every child is important and their individual roles are very significant to the success of our band program.
5. Cultivates creativity.
6. Improves communication.
7. Creates and fosters leadership roles for the students.
8. Appreciate, explore and create lifelong music learning outside of the classroom.

### **All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten:**

*Most of what I really need to know about how to live life, what to do, and how to be, I learned in Kindergarten. These are the things I learned...Share everything, play fair, don't hit people, put things back where you found them, cleanup your mess, don't take things that aren't yours, say you're sorry when you hurt people, live a balanced life - Learn some, think some, and work every day some. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together. ~ ROBERT FULGHUM*



# Moanalua Middle School Band

## Student Handbook 2023-24

### Course Descriptions:

#### **Band I: Beginning Band - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Periods 1 & 6**

The Beginning Band course is designed for students who desire to begin playing a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument for performance in an ensemble for an audience. The course will include care of an instrument, correct posture, correct carriage, correct embouchure, breath development and control, tone production, intonation, phrasing, articulation, musical terminology, dynamics, and fingerings. Students will study basic musical forms, and will play and listen to different types of musical compositions. Instruments will be provided by the school and within reason, students will be allowed to play instruments of their choice. Mouthpieces, reeds, accessories, and books are at the expense of the students.

#### **Band I: Intermediate Band – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Period 2**

The Intermediate Band course is designed for students who have completed the beginning band summer course and/or have prior experience playing a musical instrument. The course will expand on developing the basic fundamentals of playing a band instrument as stated in the beginning band course description. Students will perform at school concerts throughout the course of the year. Concerts and rehearsals outside of school time are moderate and attendance is mandatory.

#### **Band II: Symphonic Band – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Period 5**

This band course is designed for students who have fulfilled the requirements of the Beginning Band course and for those who aspire to improve their reading and playing abilities. Intermediate levels of performance techniques and musicianship are taught. The development of skills and musical understanding are maintained through the study of developmental exercises and varied music literature. Music of varied styles, periods, and cultures will be presented. Students will perform at school and non-school performances. Concerts and rehearsals outside of school time are numerous and attendance is mandatory. Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

**Jazz Band: - 8th Grade—Period 4** The Jazz Band is comprised of clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, trombones and a rhythm section (drum-set, keyboard, guitar, & double bass). This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of jazz idioms such as improvisation, the blues progression, and swing in a big band ensemble. Jazz theory and listening to jazz is a giant part of this class. This course is not designed for beginners. It is an extension of their learning from being in the Symphonic band or Concert Strings program.



# Moanalua Middle School Band

## Student Handbook 2023-24

### **MMS Extracurricular Ensembles:**

**MMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert Orchestra:** Selected students that demonstrate a high level of commitment and dedication may participate in a combination of string, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments to form an orchestra. Students will perform several school concerts throughout the year. The student must commit to attend all rehearsals and concerts throughout the year. Rehearsals are held afterschool on a weekly basis. Students will use their concert uniform for performances. Prerequisite: Students selected based on seating audition.

### **Other Extracurricular Ensembles:**

**Central District Band Festival Honor Band:** The CDBF Honor Band is composed of sixth, seventh & eighth grade selected students from seven of the Central District intermediate and middle schools to showcase their musicianship. Rehearsals have been scheduled at the seven school locations to prepare the students for the CDBF Honor Band concert. The student must commit to attend all rehearsals in order to participate in the Honor Band.

**Hawaii Youth Symphony:** HYS is Hawaii's only statewide orchestra program for youth. Each year, HYS serves approximately 600 students, ages 8-18, from nearly 100 schools on different islands. During the academic year, HYS operates three full-symphonic orchestras and four string orchestras, instructing students who are absolute beginners to the most accomplished young musicians. Education and performance are key elements of the HYS curriculum.

*<http://hiyouthsymphony.org>*

**Oahu Band Directors Association Honor Band:** The OBDA Middle School Honor Band is meant to provide a rewarding and educational experience for outstanding middle school band students without the pressure of an audition. Nomination is based on specific criteria and is limited to 10 students per school. The band rehearses and performs in late spring and primarily performs literature at the Grade II level. The band is conducted by members of the Oahu Band Directors Association.

**Oahu Band Directors Association Select Band:** The OBDA middle school Select Band is made up of students up through grade 8 who are selected through audition. The very best musicians from the auditions are selected for the Middle School Select Band. The band rehearses and performs in late spring and primarily performs literature at the Grade II and Grade III level. Students in the band have the opportunity to develop their musicianship by performing under the baton of some of the most respected conductors and music educators in the country



# Moanalua Middle School Band

## Student Handbook 2023-24

**Private Lessons:** We highly encourage all students to take private lessons from an instrumental specialist. These weekly lessons may help your child develop quicker on the instrument and gain firsthand knowledge from an expert in the field. Students who study privately may have a higher chance of getting into Select Band, Honor Band, Hawaii Youth Symphony, and may receive college scholarships. An instrumental specialist may assist with reinforcing proper playing techniques and may provide motivation for your child to excel on his/her instrument. Private lessons are not required but are highly recommended by the band directors. (See Private Lesson Brochure.)

### **Required Materials:**

1. One (1) inch three ring BLACK BINDER
2. Sheet protectors (25 sheets minimum & tab dividers)
3. Notebook paper
4. Writing utensils: Use only a **pencil** to write on music.
5. Instrument supplies will be announced by the instructor.
  - Do **NOT** purchase any music supplies or instruments at this time.

### **Behavioral Expectations:**

1. Respect your classmates, teachers, yourself, and your surroundings at all times.
2. Take pride in your work.
3. Always keep a positive attitude.
4. Always do your best.
5. Running or horseplay is not allowed inside the band room.
6. Gum chewing is prohibited at all times.
7. Keep food and drinks outside of the classroom (unless approved by the band instructors).
8. Talking out of turn will not be tolerated during class. If you have a question, you must raise your hand and wait to be called. Remember, silence is the pallet for which music is created.
9. Listen in class and learn something new every day.



# Moanalua Middle School Band

## Student Handbook 2023-24

### Classroom Procedures:

1. Please use the hand sanitizer to disinfect your hands as you enter.
2. Promptly grab a music stand and assemble your instrument within five (5) minutes of class.
3. All talking and movement will stop when the teacher/officers steps on the podium.
4. Please respect others by remaining quiet while taking attendance.
  
5. Tardiness per quarter:
  - Definition: Students **not** sitting in their chairs/designated area.
  - Band Criteria: Students must be sitting in their chairs/designated area within five (5) minutes of class.
  - You must present a tardy slip, e-mail, or signatory note from a teacher/parent.
6. Restroom:
  - Use the restroom during before/after school, breaks, and lunch hours.
  - Restroom use is for emergencies only!
  - Students may only use the restroom during the latter part of class.
  - Completely fill out your HALL PASS RECORD located in the back of the planner then request for your teacher's initial.
  - Loitering to and from the restroom will result in loss of this privilege.
7. At the end of class, please dispose of all rubbish; straighten the chairs and music stands; store your instrument in the locker; and wait to be dismissed by one of your teachers. When leaving your surroundings, make sure it's in better condition than when you arrived.
8. Please use the hand sanitizer to disinfect your hands as your exit.
9. Clear away ALL chairs and music stands at the end of each day.

### Class D offenses:

1. Cell phones or electronic equipment are CONTRABAND items!
  - Teachers will confiscate cell phones or electronic equipment if seen outside a students' backpack or if the item is heard. Please turn off cell phones or set to silent mode.
  - Confiscated items will be delivered to the Vice Principal.
2. Students who do not have Student Planners.



# Moanalua Middle School Band

## Student Handbook 2023-24

### After school rehearsals/sectionals:

1. Attendance is mandatory.
2. Rehearsal dates and times will be posted per semester.
3. If a student cannot make the rehearsal for any reason, they will need to make up the rehearsal time individually with the band directors before the end of each quarter. (If the rehearsal was an hour long, then the make up time shall be the same.)
4. Students must fill out the REHEARSAL MAKEUP FORM attached to a parent/guardian note and submit it to the homework box.
5. If a student misses a rehearsal without any notification (Absence form, email, phone call) then they will need to make up 3 times the rehearsal amount. Students must make up their time to be able to perform at the concerts.
6. Unexcused absence(s) may result in the loss of concert performance privilege.

View the after school rehearsal calendar at:

<https://www.moanalumiddleschoolband.com/rehearsal--sectional-calendar.html>

### Performance Policies:

1. Please understand that students who do not report by the designated time, fail to wear the proper uniform, and/or do not bring their instrument, will not perform; however, they will remain to observe the performance.
2. Students who do not perform will be tested individually on selected music excerpts from the concert.
3. Students will help to set-up equipment before the performance. Please make the appropriate time allowances.
4. Please note that we require ALL band students to remain throughout the entire duration of the concert. All students shall help clean up after the concert.
5. Be on time! If you come late to a performance, you must have a note from a parent, teacher or physician stating the reason. If you have some type of conflict, you must communicate with the teacher ahead of time. We will not accept excuses right before the performance unless it was an emergency. Remember: EARLY is ON TIME; ON TIME is LATE; LATE is...!



# Moanalua Middle School Band

## Student Handbook 2023-24

### Uniform Policy:

1. Please use a hanger to keep the uniform neatly pressed & wrinkle free.
2. Demonstrate heightened responsibility, courtesy, mutual respect, and humility when wearing the band uniform in public. You represent the MMS band, our school, and the Moanalua community. The MMS band uniform symbolizes the deep traditions and heart of previous band students.
3. Show pride when wearing the MMS band uniform by keeping your Aloha shirt buttoned up at all times.
4. Uniform dress code for Symphonic, Intermediate, and Beginning bands are as follows:

#### · **Symphonic & Intermediate Bands**

- Symphonic Band Aloha Shirt (provided by MMS Band)
  - Five dollars (\$5.00) rental fee
  - Washed/Ironed and return at the end of the year
- Intermediate Band Aloha Shirt (provided by MMS Band)
  - Five dollars (\$5.00) rental fee
  - Washed/Ironed and return at the end of the year
- White Undershirt
- Long Dress Black Pants
  - No Jeans or Capri pants
- Black Shoes & Long Black Socks
  - Shoes must be completely black (no other colors)
  - No sandals or heels
  - Socks: Students are responsible for providing their own socks. You must wear PLAIN & CREW LENGTH black socks. You may NOT wear ankle socks.

#### · **Beginning Band**

- Beginning Band Aloha Shirt (provided by MMS Band)
  - Five dollars (\$5.00) rental fee
  - Washed/Ironed and return at the end of the year
- Jeans
  - Blue color preferred; No destroyed or torn jeans; No Shorts or capris
- Covered Shoes
  - Any color/style; No Flip-flops or slippers



# Moanalua Middle School Band

## Student Handbook 2023-24

### **Grading Policy:**

*JupiterGrades* Website: <https://login.jupitersed.com/login/index.php>

Students and parents are able to monitor classroom progress through the *Jupiter Ed* online grade book. Access to the site is available either directly or by clicking on the *Jupiter Ed* link or the Moanalua Middle School website.

If you do not have internet access, notify Mr. Howe to print a copy of your online progress report. These reports can be printed out anytime at the request of the student or guardian.

Students will be graded based upon meeting the standards. Grading point system as follows:

4 points	A	(ME) Meets with Excellence
3 points	B	(MP) Meets with Proficiency
2 points	C	(DP) Developing Proficiency
1 point	D	(WB) Well Below Proficiency/Late
0 point	F	No Attempt/Plagiarized/Incomplete

**Assessments—30%** Written assessments will cover music terminology, music listening logs, theory, history, instrument identification, instrument care, and speed tests on note recognition. Playing assessments will consist of scale tests, assigned music from the method book/music literature, mouthpiece blowing test, solfege singing, etc. Performances will also be graded as assessments. Students that fail to take one-on-one tests with the teacher by the test date will be required to test during class.

**Participation—20%** Participation during class will be logged daily. Students must come to class prepared with all learning materials—pencils, method books, sheet music, instrument & mouthpiece to receive full participation credit. All disciplinary infractions will be kept in a journal and acted upon should they become a problem.





# Moanalua Middle School Band

## Student Handbook 2023-24

**Homework Assignments—10%** Homework assignments will be assigned during class. All late or incomplete assignments shall be completed during class before the student can play on their instrument. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL RECEIVE A (WB) GRADE!** Unless the student was absent on the due date.

**After School Rehearsals —25%** After school rehearsals are mandatory to extend the learning and prepare the ensemble for concerts. In order to put the music together, it is imperative to have everyone there to balance and blend the ensemble. If for some reason you must miss a rehearsal, you must communicate with the band directors by absence form, email, or phone. If rehearsals are not made up, then the student will not be allowed to perform and they will need to take a make-up test with the band directors.

**Instrument inspection—5%** Instrument inspection will be held at the end of each semester. The requirements needed to pass instrument inspection are as follows: instrument case must be cleaned on the outside, vacuum inside case and remove lint or dust, key/valve joints must be lubricated with proper oil, dust between the keys, brass slides must be cleaned with the snake/water/soap, etc. Please provide your own cleaning cloth and pipe cleaners; all other supplies shall be provided by the school. This counts as a homework grade.

**Forms—0%** Forms will be inputted into *Jupiter Ed* with a checkmark as a completed assignment. Example: Winter Concert Form. Forms not returned and signed will be indicated as “missing” in *Jupiter Ed*. Turn in all forms with money into the MONEY BOX in an envelope with the form and money together.

**BAND EVENT CALENDAR (Subject to change)**

<https://www.moanaluamiddleschoolband.com/event-calendar.html>



# Moanalua Middle School Band

## Student Handbook 2023-24

Read through the Student Handbook at:

<https://www.moanaluumiddleschoolband.com/student-handbook--forms.html>

Please cut and return the bottom portion of this page by **MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023.**

We have read and understood all content of the Moanalua Middle School Band Student Handbook and agree to follow all policies, procedures, and guidelines.

----- Student's Name (PLEASE PRINT)	----- Period	
----- Student's Signature	----- Date	----- Instrument (if applicable)
----- Parent's/Guardian's Signature	----- Date	----- Relationship
----- Parent's/Guardian's Signature	----- Date	----- Relationship