Moanalua Middle School Band
Student Handbook 2026-27

https://www.moanaluamiddleschoolband.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
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

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Course Descriptions:

Band I: Beginning Band - 7th & 8th Grade - Periods 1 & 2
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 – 7th& 8th Grade - Period 6
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 – 8th Grade - Period 3
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.

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Other Extracurricular Ensembles:

Hawai'i Youth Symphony: HYS is Hawai'i'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

O'ahu 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 O'ahu Band Directors Association.

O'ahu 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

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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, Hawai'i 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.

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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!
    - · 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.

After school rehearsals/sectionals:

To maintain a high level of performance and teamwork, mandatory attendance at after-school rehearsals and sectionals is crucial for all students. Here's what you need to know about our policy:

- **Mandatory Attendance and Scheduling:** Rehearsal dates and times will be posted on the online MMS Band website calendar. Attendance is required for all scheduled rehearsals.
- **Excused Absences:** If a student has an unavoidable reason to miss a rehearsal, they must submit a **Rehearsal Make-up Form** along with a note from a parent or guardian. This must be submitted to the teacher. The student will then be required to make up the missed rehearsal time in the band room before the concert date. The makeup time must be equal to the length of the rehearsal they missed.
- **Unexcused Absences:** Missing a rehearsal without any prior notification (form, email, or phone call) is considered an unexcused absence. In this case, the student must make up three times the amount of rehearsal time they missed to be eligible to perform at concerts.
- **Concert Performance Privilege:** Please be aware that one or more unexcused absences may result in the student losing the privilege to perform at concerts.

View the after school rehearsal calendar at:
https://www.moanaluamiddleschoolband.com/rehearsal--sectional-calendar.html

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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...!

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<u>Uniform Policy</u>:

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

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***Parent Guide to Standards-Based Grading*:**

At Moanalua Middle School, we believe student achievement occurs through clearly defined standards, and authentic learning opportunities. We strive to provide accurate, meaningful, and timely feedback to both students and parents throughout the learning process. Our goal is to report student achievement that reflects student progress toward mastery of key academic concepts, and identifies multiple pathways to deeper learning. To better achieve this, we are transitioning to a standards-based grading system this school year. This is similar to the standards-based report cards used in elementary schools, ensuring a consistent approach to evaluating student progress from elementary through middle school.

What is standards-based grading?

Standards-based grading communicates how students perform on a set of clearly defined learning targets called standards. The purpose of standards-based grading is to identify what a student knows, or is able to do, in relation to those learning targets, as opposed to simply averaging grades or scores over the course of a grading period, which can sometimes mask what a student has learned or not learned.

Why standards-based grading?

Standards-based grading reports what students should know and be able to do within each content area. The real-time monitoring of student performance reflects a more accurate picture of student achievement. Additional reasons for standards-based grading include:

- Other methods of grading do not accurately indicate what a student knows and is able to do.
- Students will be able to explain what they learned or did not learn, rather than recite a percentage.
- It can benefit all learners - students who struggle, and students whose learning is accelerated. Students' progress towards standards can assist teachers in determining intervention or enrichment opportunities.
- Students and parents are provided meaningful feedback in relation to specific standards.

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How are my child's "grades" determined?

Your child's performance on assignments, tests, and projects will still determine their overall grade, but with a key difference: grades will now be reported using a scale from 0 to 4, based on their level of understanding and performance. Each task will have clearly defined expectations through standards-based rubrics, which help students understand their progress and how to improve. At the middle and end of each quarter, specific criteria as outlined in each class or syllabus, will be used to determine each student's letter grade on an A-F scale. If you have any questions or concerns, please refer to each class syllabus, or contact each teacher.

What are the levels of mastery and what do they represent?

Score	Mastery Level	Explanation
4	Advanced / Exemplary	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding and application of standard
3	Proficient / Meets Expectations	Shows a solid grasp of the standard with consistent performance
2	Developing / Approaches Expectations	Demonstrates partial understanding with some errors or gaps
1	Beginning / Below Expectations	Shows minimal understanding and significant gaps in knowledge
0	No Effort / Incomplete	No evidence of understanding or effort

Converting the 4-point scale to a letter grade:

- **4** = **A** (Advanced / Exemplary)
- **3** = **B** (Proficient / Meets Expectations)
- **2** = **C** (Developing / Approaches Expectations)
- **1** = **D** (Beginning / Below Expectations)
- **0** = **F** (No Effort / Incomplete)

Assessments—60% Written assessments will cover music terminology, music 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. Performance evaluations will be graded as assessments.

Evidence of Practice—25% Beginning & Intermediate Bands are required to complete the Tradition of Excellence Levels. All band classes are required to complete the weekly Practice Goal Sheets and padlet.com online video recordings.

Homework Assignments—15% Homework assignments will be assigned during class. I.e. Music Theory, Music Listening Assignments.

After School Rehearsals—0% After school rehearsals are mandatory to extend the learning and prepare the ensemble for concerts. 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 at the concert and the student will need to take a make-up test individually with the band directors.

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*. Please turn in all completed forms with payment together in a **sealed envelope**, clearly labeled with your child's full name, grade, and the purpose of the payment.

Allowing students multiple chances to demonstrate proficiency is a great way to foster mastery. This means the teacher offers **retakes for all homework assignments and written/playing assessments** per quarter. The goal isn't just a better grade; it's about making sure the student truly understands the material.

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Late Homework & Assessment Policy:
Homework is due by the specified due date. If a student is absent, upon return to school they must submit any missed homework immediately. All written homework must be completed before participating in band rehearsals. If you have missing assignments, you may be assigned to use a designated class time to complete any incomplete work before you can pick up your instrument to play in class. Furthermore, all missing homework related to an assessment must be submitted before you are eligible to retake that assessment for a higher grade. This policy is designed to encourage students to complete their work in a timely manner while providing a reasonable window for unforeseen circumstances.

Academic integrity is a core value in the Moanalua Middle School band program, and it is essential for both students and parents to understand its importance. Cheating, which includes plagiarism (using someone else's work without credit), unauthorized collaboration, or using forbidden materials on an exam, undermines the learning process and is a serious offense. We expect students to do their own work, and we encourage parents to support this by fostering an environment of honesty and personal responsibility. The consequences for academic dishonesty are significant and can range from a failing grade on an assignment to suspension, permanently affecting a student's academic record. By upholding these principles together, we ensure a fair and valuable music education for everyone.

***JupiterGrades* Website**: https://login.jupitered.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.

AI School-Wide statement: In this school, we value original thought and your unique voice. The use of **artificial intelligence** (**AI**) **tools** (like ChatGPT or Google Gemini) to produce or substantially assist with any graded assignments could be considered a violation of our Academic Integrity Policy. Submitting AI-generated work could be a form of plagiarism and will be treated as such.

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BAND EVENT CALENDAR (Subject to change)

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

Read through the Student Handbook at:

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Please return the MMS Band Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form [this page] by **AUGUST 10 & 11, 2026.**

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

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