

Our Savior Lutheran School Band Handbook 2008-2009

All School Rules Apply to Band and Band events outside regular school hours.

Our Band Rule: *SHOW RESPECT*

1. **Respect for parents:** Your parents made a considerable investment in your instrument and various supplies. Making the most of the opportunity shows respect for their sacrifices.
2. **Respect for your instructors:** The band instructors try to provide each student with the best musical education and enjoyable experience possible. Doing your best to learn from them shows respect.
3. **Respect for fellow band students:** Both the best players and the weaker players doing their best determine how well a band does! Doing your best shows respect for your classmates.
4. **Respect for equipment:** An instrument in poor playing condition, dirty, or that does not have all the proper accessories results in poor performance and slow progress. Your instrument, whether old or new, should be a source of pride and thus should be well taken care of.
5. **Respect for yourself:** Doing your best shows that you respect yourself as an important member of the band. Be the kind of person you would look up to.
6. **Respect for God:** The Lord gave you skills, talent, and intelligence to use to His glory.

If you always show respect, most decisions become easy. Some examples in band would be:

You meet our practice requirements.

You pay attention in class.

You attend practices (which are during school) and concerts, which are **required** (there are only three, on Sunday afternoons – put the schedule on the refrigerator or some other obvious place).

Some things to consider are:

If your child is going to need braces, try to schedule it as far from a concert as possible since adjustment time is needed. The best times would be over the summer, immediately after the Christmas Concert, or immediately after the Combined Lutheran Schools Concert in early March.

While concerts are required, there are rare acceptable excuses. If you wish to be excused, you must let the band director know, as far in advance as possible, to see if it is acceptable, otherwise it is unexcused. There are things we don't excuse for, such as an athletic game, because there are many of those in one season, but only three concerts all year.

Have instrument, music, **and a pencil** in class each day.

Try to improve each day. Consider that if we have 30 students in class and each student fixes a single mistake during class time and one more during home practice that means we have fixed 60 mistakes in a single day!

GRADING POLICY

The value of certain things can vary from one grading period to the next, but the students are informed in advance of these changes. Here are the things we consider most often:

1. Daily points: Students lose points when they fail to have materials for class or fail to take things home with them or have an unexcused absence. Not having their instrument (or some item necessary to play it) loses points the fastest.
2. Practice sheets and other papers to be turned in and signed by a parent. Practice sheets are to be turned in the first band class each week and cover the previous Monday through Sunday period. To get an 85 in this category, the student must practice 5 days a week for 20 minutes each day. We consider this the minimum. For every two minutes more, they get another point added to their grade. More days also receive a bonus. Fewer days lowers their score.
3. Inspections may sometimes be done as part of the grade, but students must maintain the cleanliness of their instrument, have it in good working order, and have all supplies whether it is graded or not.
4. Tests usually cover the remaining points. Students can sometimes retake tests, regardless of score, before or after school hours or during break. A retest can never lower a score – only raise it or leave it unchanged.
5. Extra points, within limits, can be obtained for volunteering for extra work, attending concerts of other bands, and other things.
6. **FINAL EXAMS: Most grading periods (all but the first) have a performance near the end that is like a final grading period exam. An unexcused absence can result in failing the course and/or dismissal from the band program!**

CONCERT UNIFORM

We wear aloha shirts and **dark** slacks (girls may opt for an aloha dress). It is important that the students “look good” because this is a reflection of how seriously they take their performances. If they don’t think enough of their own concerts, no one else will either. So, we don’t wear beach sandals for sure, but girls often have dress sandals with are fine. I would hope we could have a situation where no one wears “athletic shoes” either. I understand the casual footwear of Hawaii and that some students simply do not own any other kind of shoes, especially boys, but PLEASE do your best.

SECTIONALS

Sectionals will normally take place during the daily study halls. The time is a little shorter than regular classes so students should strive to get to sectionals promptly!

BAND SCHEDULE
All Concerts Are Required!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Please keep track of the following dates to avoid conflicts. Students should also inform any coaches or other group leaders of these dates as soon as possible to avoid last minute surprises for them.

December 16 (Sunday) Holiday Concert at OSLS
Begins at 2:00; Students **ready** for warm-up at 1:30

February 21 (Wednesday)	Percussion sectional probably at Our Redeemer 2:00-3:30 The details are all tentative at this time.
March 8 (Sunday)	Combine Lutheran Schools Concert at Pearl City Cultural Center on Waimano Home Rd. Begins 7:00 p.m. Student warm-up time is 6:00 p.m.

May 16 (Friday) Spring Concert at OSLS
Begins 7:00 p.m.; Students ready for warm-up at 6:15 p.m.

PARENT – STUDENT –TEACHER AGREEMENT

We, as student and parent, understand the rules, policies, and attendance requirements in this Band Handbook and agree to abide with them in every way.

Parent’s Name (please print) _____

Parent’s Signature _____

Student’s Name (please print) _____

Student’s Signature _____

Instrument _____ Date _____