

# Our Savior Lutheran School Band Handbook 2013-2014

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 usually but check the schedule (the combined Lutheran schools concert is scheduled for Saturday) – 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 early 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. Missing a concert is like failing a final exam!

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

Try to improve each day. Consider that if we have about 25 students in class and each student fixes a single mistake during class time and one more during home practice that means we have fixed 50 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 cards (**3x5 cards only**) and other papers to be turned in and signed by a parent. Practice cards are to be turned in the first band class each week and cover the previous Monday through Sunday period. We start out with 55 points for turning in a signed practice card. Then we add a point for every three minutes of practice. Therefore, a student who meets our expectations (5 days a week and 20 minutes a day for a total of 100 minutes) would earn an 88 for that card. A 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> day of practice earns 4 points each day extra, plus one for every 3 minutes. Any days fewer than five results in a 4 point penalty. Therefore a student who turns in a card with no practice time would have 20 points taken off the original 55, leaving them with a 35 for that card. The only way to get lower is to not turn it in at all. That will earn a zero! Students can earn up to 105 points before penalties are applied. Any other papers, such as progress reports, that are signed by a parent are given a due date. Turning them in on time earns a 100. Each late day reduces that by 10 points.
3. Inspections to make sure instruments are in playing order and with proper class supplies may sometimes be done as part of the grade.
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.
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 which 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. If we can't avoid athletic shoes, ones which are dark color with no or minimum stripes, etc, are best.

## SECTIONALS

Weekly sectionals are **required** unless approval to miss is given by the band director (which is rare). It counts the same as any other class we have. The time is a little shorter than regular classes so students should strive to get to sectionals promptly!

### BAND SCHEDULE - MARK YOUR CALENDARS! All Concerts Are Required!

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 13 (Friday)	Christmas Concert at OSLS Begins at 7:00; Students <b>ready</b> for warm-up at 6:30
February 26 (Wednesday)	Percussion sectional probably at Trinity Lutheran 2:00-3:00 Location and date subject to change ( <b>we need a driver!</b> )
March 9 (Sunday)	Combined Lutheran Schools Concert at <b>Pearl City Cultural Center</b> Begins at 3:00. Warm-up will probably be around 1:45.
May 18 (Sunday)	Spring Concert at OSLS 2:00 PM. Students <b>ready</b> for warm-up at 1:30

### Practice Card Format (3x5 card only)

John Smith	
Mon:	20
Tue:	20
Wed:	zero
Thu:	20
Fri:	20
Sat:	zero
Sun:	20
Total: 100	Parent Sig: <u><i>Karen Smith</i></u>

You may also enter the info horizontally as well but still include the name and parent signature:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
20	20	zero	20	20	zero	20	100

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**PARENT – STUDENT –TEACHER AGREEMENT**  
**Return to the Band Director**

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 \_\_\_\_\_