
Our Savior Lutheran School Band Handbook 2017 – 2018

Beginning Band and Band

Students in grades 5 through 8 who do not know how to play a band instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, baritone, tuba and percussion) and who may not know how to read music should enroll in the beginning band. Students in grades 6 through 8 who have successfully completed beginning band or who can demonstrate their playing ability through a brief audition should enroll in the advanced band.

Goals

Basic goals for students enrolled in the band program include: knowing how to assemble and hold the instrument, knowing and improving basic playing skills, knowing how to care for the instrument, becoming a good music reader, knowing musical terms and concepts, improving listening skills, playing music in a variety of styles, performing music for public performances, working cooperatively with others, developing a greater appreciation of music, using one's musical ability to serve others and bring glory to God and having fun.

Instruments, Equipment and Supplies

All students will need to rent or purchase an instrument. Students enrolled in the beginning band may want to rent an instrument for the first few months of the year.

Band instruments and supplies may be purchased from the following stores:

Music Center of Hawaii	851 F Pohukaina St. (Honolulu)	596-8742
Global Music Supply	2758 S. King St. #102 (Honolulu)	949-8863
Easy Music Center	1314 South King St. G1 (Honolulu)	591-0999
Easy Music Center*	98-425 Kamehameha Hwy. (Pearl City)	484-1360

*This store may not sell, rent or repair instruments, but may sell supplies.

It is recommended that parents contact these stores before visiting in order to know what is available for rent or for sale. These stores also sell folding music stands and supplies (valve oil, slide oil, reeds, cork grease, neckstraps, etc.).

When purchasing a band instrument, select a new or used student model instrument that is in good playing condition. Professional model instruments cost more and are not needed at the beginning and intermediate levels of band. It is recommended that instruments be purchased from a store that specializes in the sale and repair of standard brand band instruments. Mail order companies, pawn shops, wholesale clubs and department stores are not recommended since the instruments they sell are frequently of poor quality and these stores do not have a local repair shop. Instruments may be purchased from a private owner through classified ads, craigslist or ebay; however prior to purchase, it is recommended that the instrument be inspected by a band instrument repairman to ensure that it is in good playing condition.

In addition to an instrument, all woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone) and brass (trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, euphonium, tuba) players need a soft cloth to wipe dirt and finger prints off the instrument. An old T-shirt or hand towel works well.

Flute players need a strip of soft cloth or a handkerchief that is threaded into the end of the tuning rod and is used to absorb moisture on the inside of the flute.

Clarinet and saxophone players need a cleaning swab to absorb moisture on the inside of their instruments. Clarinet and saxophone players also need at least 4 good reeds at all times. Clarinet and saxophone players in the beginning band should use #2½ Rico reeds. Clarinetists in the advanced band should use #3 Vandoren reeds. Saxophonists in the advanced band should use #2½ or #3 Vandoren reeds. All clarinet and saxophone players need a good mouthpiece, mouthpiece cover, ligature, reed case (reed guard) and cork grease. Saxophonists need a neckstrap.

To lubricate the valve of their instruments, all trumpet, French horn, euphonium, baritone and tuba players need a small bottle of valve oil. French horn players also need a small bottle of rotor oil. To lubricate the main slide of their instrument, trombonists need a small bottle of slide oil or a small jar or tube of slide lubricant and a small spray bottle of water. All brass players need slide grease for the tuning slide and for the valve slides on the trumpet, horn, euphonium and tuba. All brass players should check to see that their instrument has a good mouthpiece.

Percussionists will need to purchase a percussion kit for practice at home. The percussion kit has a practice pad, drum sticks, small set of bells, mallets and a case.

All students need a folding music stand for use at home. Folding music stands may be purchased at any of the local music stores. The school has music stands that the students can use at rehearsals and performances; however the students may not take these stands home.

All students need an identification tag (luggage tag) that can be attached to the handle of the case and they need to bring a pencil to every rehearsal. The students also need a binder or folder in which to keep their sheet music and handouts. It is recommended that all band students bring their assignment books (planners) to every rehearsal so that they can write down the assigned music that they need to practice at home.

Music

Beginning band students will use the *Essential Elements Band Method, book 1* for most of the year. All band students will be given sheet music and handouts that are to be kept in a binder or folder. The school will provide the music books and sheet music.

Instrument Care and Maintenance

There are a few basic things that need to be done in order to care for a band instrument. The instrument must have a sturdy case with an identification tag. The instrument should be stored in its case when it is not being used. Excessive force

should not be used when assembling or playing the instrument. Woodwind and brass instruments should not be stored in places that are very hot. Classmates and siblings should not attempt to play the instrument since they probably do not know how to hold it correctly and they may drop or damage it.

Woodwind instruments should be dried with a soft cloth and a cleaning swab after every use especially on the inside where moisture can buildup and cause the pads to stick down. Except for the mouthpiece, woodwind instruments should never be washed with soap and water. Students who play the clarinet or the saxophone need to use reeds that are in good condition and not too old or worn. The reeds should be dried off and stored in a reed guard (reed case).

Students who play brass instruments need to regularly lubricate the valves or the main slide of their instruments. Occasionally brass instruments need to be taken apart and cleaned with cool water and mild dish soap. Hot water, abrasive cleansers and scouring pads are not to be used since they will damage the finish. After the instrument has been washed and dried, the parts should be reassembled and the slides and valves should be lubricated with slide grease and valve oil or slide oil.

Percussionists who own a snare drum should tune it prior to every performance. Drum sticks and mallets need to be replaced if they are broken or cracked. Drum heads need to be replaced if they are badly worn or broken. Occasionally the snare mechanism needs adjustment or replacement if it is not working properly.

Insurance to cover the replacement of an instrument that is lost, stolen or damaged may be available as part of one's homeowner's or renter's insurance policy. It is recommended that the brand, model, serial number, the estimated value of the instrument and a brief description of the instrument's condition be noted and kept for insurance purposes. A recent photo of the instrument should be kept.

Repairing Instruments

From time to time all instruments whether new or used will need some form of maintenance or repair. When an instrument needs repair, it should be taken to the band director. If the band director is unable to repair the instrument, the band director will recommend places where the instrument can be repaired. *Only qualified repairmen should make repairs to band instruments.*

Storage of Instruments at School

Band instruments are to be kept in the designated area of the student's homeroom during the school day. *Band instruments are not to be left at school overnight.*

Attendance at Rehearsals and Performances

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required and it is expected that all band members will participate for the entire school year. The beginning band will rehearse every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:20 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Students in the advanced band will rehearse every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 2:40 p.m. Students who are well enough to attend school are expected to

attend rehearsals with their instrument and music even if they are unable to play their instrument because they are recovering from an illness or injury.

Performances and Special Rehearsals for the year include:

Date	Time	Event and Location
<i>Tuesday, December 19, 2017</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Concert at Our Savior Lutheran Church</i>
<i>Wednesday afternoon Late February</i>	<i>2:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Percussion Sectional Rehearsal* at Saint Mark Lutheran School (Kaneohe)</i>
<i>Friday morning Late February or Early March</i>	<i>9:15 a.m.</i>	<i>Band Dress Rehearsal* at Our Savior Lutheran Church</i>
<i>Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon Late February or Early March</i>		<i>Lutheran Music Festival Concert* at the Pearl City Cultural Center (Pearl City)</i>
<i>Wednesday, May 23, 2018</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Spring Concert at Our Savior Lutheran Church</i>

**The Beginning Band does not participate in these events.*

There are only a few performances during the school year. Participation in these performances is a primary goal of the band classes at Our Savior. It is important that all band members participate in these performances since the bands are small and everyone's participation is needed so that the performances are successful. Teamwork and commitment to the group are values that are taught in an activity such as band. *It is expected that the students and their parents will note the special rehearsals and performances on the family calendar and that they will give these rehearsals and performances priority when planning other family activities (e.g. vacations).* When students are absent from rehearsals and performances it makes it difficult for the rest of the students to perform successfully and puts added stress on these students.

Students may be excused from a performance with the band director's approval in the event of a serious illness or injury (e.g. fever, contagious disease, broken bones) or for an emergency in the immediate family (e.g. death of a relative or hospitalization of a family member). *The band director or the principal are to be notified prior to the performance if at all possible. Failure to do so may result in an unexcused absence.* The students should plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before each performance in order to setup equipment and to warmup for the performance. Students who are not excused from a performance or who miss the performance because of tardiness may receive a lower grade for the quarter.

Dress Code for Performances

The students are to dress nicely for all performances. Aloha shirts and dark slacks are to be worn at all performances. Girls may opt to wear an aloha dress that is to the knee or longer. Dresses must have sleeves or straps that are at least 1" wide. It is preferred that the students wear dress shoes; however dark colored athletic shoes that are in good condition may be worn if the student does not own dress shoes.

Practice

All band members are required to practice regularly at home. Regular practice is needed in order to keep playing skills and music reading skills at their best. Regular practice means 5 days of practice each week for at least 20 minutes each day of practice. Students who practice for an hour or two once or twice a week will find it difficult to keep music reading skills and playing skills at their best. It is recommended that parents help their son/daughter setup a regular practice schedule. It is also recommended that the students practice after school preferably before dinner and before they get too tired. It is best that they practice in a room free from distractions.

During the course of the school year, all band members will need to be encouraged to practice since the practice routine may get dull especially when the students are learning a new playing skill that will take time to master. When this occurs, parents need to offer words of encouragement. Occasionally small rewards may be offered to encourage more frequent practice. Parents who play a band instrument or the piano may play along with their son/daughter as a way to support and encourage him/her. Students who find the assigned music easy to play may not want to practice regularly; however they still need to practice regularly in order to keep playing skills and music reading skills at their best. A solution to this problem may be to find other challenging music for them to play. Solo music for band instruments can be purchased from local music stores such as Music Center of Hawaii or from music stores via the internet such as Pepper Music.

All band members are required to complete practice cards that are collected every Monday. The practice cards are graded as homework. Practice cards need to be signed by a parent or guardian. Students who misplace their practice cards should get a replacement practice card from the band director. Practice cards can be downloaded from Sycamore. Students who practice 5 days each week for at least 20 minutes each day of practice will receive an "A" for that week of practice. Those who practice less than this will receive a lower grade. Late practice cards may receive a lower grade. Students who are seriously ill or injured should mark "ILL" on the practice card. Students who are unable to practice because their instrument needs repair should try to get a loaner instrument to use. If they are unable to obtain a loaner instrument, then they should mark "IR" on the practice card to indicate that the instrument is being repaired. It is expected that parents will make sure that their son or daughter has an instrument in good playing condition to use. Furthermore, students who are well enough to attend school and well enough to do other homework are expected to do their band homework. The students can at least pretend to play the music, count and clap rhythms or review notes and fingerings even if they are unable to blow into the instrument because they are recovering from a bad cough or have allergies.

Orthodontics

Students with braces can continue to play a woodwind or brass instrument in the school band. They may have to curtail or limit the amount of playing they do for a few days when braces are installed or when adjustments are made. They also may

want to use dental wax especially when the braces are first installed. Invisalign aligners may be a good alternative to traditional braces for band students needing orthodontic work. *Orthodontic work should be avoided right before a performance.*

Grading

Tests of the assigned music and participation in performances comprise 75% of the quarter grade. Practice card grades comprise 15% of the quarter grade. Participation in rehearsals (arriving at rehearsals on time with an instrument, equipment, music and a pencil and contributing positively in the rehearsal) comprises 10% of the quarter grade. All band students will begin the quarter with 100 “daily points”. Points will be deducted each time a student is late to rehearsal or is unprepared for a rehearsal.

Student Behavior

All students are to abide by school rules as outlined in the school handbook. The students are to attend and to arrive on time to all rehearsals and performances. The students need to be prepared (i.e. the students should have their instruments, music and a pencil) for all rehearsals and performances. Our Savior Lutheran School is a Christian school; therefore it is expected that all students will behave in a Christian manner. Foul language, harassment and intimidation of others, cheating, stealing, vandalism, dishonesty, fighting or causing harm to others will not be tolerated.

Private Lessons

No band director can be a virtuoso player on all of the instruments; therefore students who need help learning their music or who want to learn advanced playing skills and solo literature on their instrument should seek a teacher who is an accomplished player of the instrument that they play. While private lessons are not required for participation in the band program, it is highly recommended that all students in the beginning band and band consider taking private lessons especially students who plan to apply for admission to a selective high school band program, students who are planning to audition for the Hawaii Youth Symphony Orchestra or the Middle School Select Band and students who are seeking careers as a professional musicians. Mr. Bauchle and Mr. Fischer are available to teach lessons after school or on Saturdays.

Attendance at Performances in the Community

Band students who hear performances by accomplished bands, orchestras and virtuoso performers (e.g. Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, Hawaii Youth Symphony Orchestra, Royal Hawaiian Band, military bands, college bands and orchestras, parades) are often motivated to improve their playing skills. It is recommended that band students attend a few of the many concerts that are available in the community.

Benefits of Participation in the Band Program

There are many benefits that students receive as a result of their participation in the band program. Most band students develop greater self-discipline, a healthier self-image, better listening skills and good study habits. They learn to work with others

and they develop a strong sense of loyalty and greater commitment to the groups in which they are involved. Recent studies show that students who participate in musical studies such as band generally perform better in their academic studies than those students who do not participate. Furthermore, the longer a student participates, the greater the benefit. Colleges and employers frequently look for students and employees who have participated in band because they know that students who successfully participate in band are reliable, prompt, hard-working and work well with others. Former band members also grow to appreciate and support musical organizations in local churches, schools and the community. Although few band members at Our Savior will ever seek careers as professional musicians, many will continue to enjoy music as they share their musical talent with their family, church and community. Finally, the ability to play a musical instrument provides a wholesome activity that a person can enjoy throughout his/her life.

Oahu Band Directors' Association Events

Each year the Oahu Band Directors' Association sponsors events such as the Middle School Solo and Ensemble Contest and the Middle School Select Band. Our Savior band members are not required to participate in these events. However band members who plan to participate must be taking private lessons and must be practicing regularly at home. They also must submit the registration materials and fees by the deadlines. Students who perform a solo at the solo and ensemble contest will need an accompanist. Students who are selected to play in the Middle School Select Band are required to attend all rehearsals and the performance. The Middle School Solo and Ensemble Contest is usually held on a Sunday in mid-January at the University of Hawaii–Manoa music department. The auditions for the Middle School Select Band are usually held on a Sunday morning in December at the University of Hawaii–Manoa music department.

Additional Information

Contact Mr. Allen Bauchle via email (Allen.Bauchle@gmail.com) or via phone at school (488-0000) or at home (839-7201) if you have questions or if you need additional information.