

Waipahu High School Band Handbook 2020-2021

Please read this handbook through and sign the contract at the end. **Both a Parent/Guardian and the student must sign and date the contract.** If you have any questions regarding the handbook or the band program, please feel free to call Mr. Henry Fu at 307-9409 or e-mail him at waipahuhsband@gmail.com **before signing the contract.** Signing the Band Handbook contract is an acceptance of the policies within.

*A copy of this handbook, along with last year's Band Handbook and lots of other handouts and information, can be found at www.waipahuband.com The website is updated regularly by the band director, Mr. Henry Fu.

Your Band Director

The Waipahu High School "Marauder" Band is under the direction of Mr. Henry Fu. Mr. Fu graduated Summa Cum Laude from Waianae High School in 1994. He then graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a B Ed in 1999 and received his Master's degree in Music Education from Boston University in 2011. After graduating from UH, he began teaching at Kailua High School where he remained for 14 years. In 2011, he was the guest conductor for the Maui Massed Band. In 2012, he was selected as Hawaii's representative in the *School Band and Orchestra's* "Fifty Directors that Make a Difference." He was also the O'ahu Island Band Director for the 2014 Hawai'i All State Marching Band, and was the Lead Director for the 2016 Hawai'i All-State Marching Band to Macy's Day Parade. This is Mr. Fu's eighth year as band director at Waipahu High School. During his time at Waipahu, he has increased student interest in the Jazz band, added Applied Music courses, and revived the Waipahu field show Marching Band. He is currently a member of the Oahu Band Directors Association and the American School Band Directors Association.

Band Program Philosophy

It is the goal of the Waipahu High School Band program to provide opportunities for students to understand, appreciate and perform music through participation in band. The students will learn using various concert music pieces from different time periods, and will perform grade 3-6 music (on a scale of 6, 6 being the highest). Students will learn to work as a team toward a common goal: Performing music together to the best of their abilities.

How COVID-19 has changed our band program this year

Due to the current worldwide pandemic, several things have changed regarding how our band program will meet and perform. Unlike past years, there will be no sectionals or full band rehearsals for at least the first semester. We will be using a combination of online software programs and other technology to improve our playing. We will be having individual performance tests and small group recordings to become better musicians. If the pandemic passes

at some point during our second semester, we will be reverting back to our previous year's routine, including weekly sectionals, full band rehearsals, and events/performances. You may view our previous Band Handbook at www.waipahuband.com/handouts.

Band is a class, NOT an extracurricular activity

Band is a graded class, NOT an extra-curricular subject. Examples of extracurricular activities are sports and clubs. Parents and students are not allowed to “take a break” from band classes and assignments in order to focus on other classes. That’s like having a child fail Math to raise his/her English grade.

Band is a team-oriented program

Band is one of the most team-oriented programs one can participate in. All students are expected to learn their musical parts well and contribute equally. In sports, it is not uncommon for students to try as hard as they can, but still not see many minutes of playing time. In music, especially at this level, students all perform at the concerts, whether they are confident in their parts or not. We prefer that they make themselves into good players, with the support and guidance that we offer them.

Band Room Pride: Clean Team

In Japan, students take pride in cleaning their classrooms on a daily basis. A school is a child's second home. This tradition is maintained at the Waipahu High School Band room.

Cleaning of the band room includes, but is not limited to:

1. Trash removal
2. Sink cleaning
3. Sweeping & vacuuming
4. Window cleaning (last work day)
5. Rag cleaning (last work day)
 - a. Dirty band rags are to be split among the Clean Team and be taken home for washing and drying, and returned the following work day.

The Clean Team will be under the authority of the band's Vice-President. The Vice-President will assign daily duties for the clean team and take daily attendance. Cleaning will be done daily 15 minutes after school, and should take no longer than 15 minutes. ***More information on how the clean team system will be done this year will be explained in class.**

General Classroom Rules

1. Be in the class before the tardy bell rings. **Walking in the door while the bell is ringing constitutes being tardy.**
2. Each student is required to bring their paper, pencils, music, and other necessary equipment to class each day. **Pencils must be placed on stands during the period.**

3. Remove footwear and hats upon entering the band room.
4. No gum chewing in the band room.
5. Sanitize your hands, or use the sink to wash them thoroughly.
6. Clean your chair and stand before AND after use.
7. Keep 6 foot spacing.
8. You will be required to use your masks whenever you are not playing (String and percussion instrumentalists must wear their masks at all times).
9. Do not share mouthpieces, reeds, instruments, percussion sticks, or anything else that could spread germs, bacteria, or viruses (virii).
10. Use appropriate language. No swearing.
11. Observe all off-limit areas (Instrument room, storage room, library, podium, and Band Director's office). Students are allowed in the off-limit areas only when given permission by the Band Director.
12. No one may "hang out" in any of the rooms. Practice rooms are for practicing (See below). Instrument and storage rooms are for storage only. Percussion room is for percussion practice and percussion storage.
13. Practice rooms may only be used for applied music students, one per room. Rooms need to be disinfected before someone else uses the room.
14. The Library is only used for librarian work and, with librarian permission, rehearsal.
15. Handle all instruments with care. **Careless acts that result in damage to or loss of an instrument will be fined to the person that signed out the instrument up to the cost to replace the instrument.**
16. **Do not play on other people's instruments, electronic or acoustic, without the band director's permission.** Spend time on improving on your own instrument before attempting to learn another.
17. Be early for all rehearsals and performances so that you may set up your instrument, chair, stand, etc.
18. Non-band students are not allowed in the band room **except when the band director allows it.**
19. Follow all Federal, State, DOE, and Waipahu High School Rules at all times (In addition to band rules).
20. When in doubt, ask the band director.
21. **If a student behaves in an insubordinate or offensive manner toward the band director, the band director reserves the right to expel the student from the band program.**

Consequences

- 1st offense: Warning
 2nd offense: Detention, Parent notification
 3rd offense: Referral to administration

Note: If at any time a student is caught drinking alcohol, smoking or chewing tobacco, vaping, or using any type of illegal drug while in the band room or at a band event, **the band director will refer the student to the administration and will dismiss the student from the band program.**

Grading

Grading will be based on a standard 100% scale. Grades available are as follows:

100-90%	A
89-80%	B
79-70%	C
69-60%	D
59%-0%	F

The percentages are based on these categories:

Participation/Assignments	30%
Playing/Written Tests	30%
Projects	40%

Descriptions:

Participation/Assignments - Students need to participate in class/online playing and discussions. They will do written classwork. They need to attend class regularly and be active in their education.

Playing/Written Tests - Students will be given a variety of playing tests to show proficiency and growth on their instruments. They will also be given written tests to assess their knowledge of musical and other knowledge. Both playing and written tests will be given online and in person.

Projects - Students will be recording themselves playing short exercises, single parts of a small ensemble, multiple parts of a small ensemble, and entire concert pieces.

Rehearsals

Full Band Rehearsals

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will not be having after school rehearsals until further notice. When the Department of Health and the Department of Education decides that it is safe to resume school normally (face-to-face), we will revert back to last school year's schedule.

Sectionals

Instead of traditional after school sectionals, section leaders will be in charge of scheduling virtual rehearsals with individual players once every other week. These rehearsals will be held virtually through an online format such as Google Meets, Zoom, Webex, Facetime, etc. Schedules will be forthcoming.

*Students who miss sectionals with their section leaders excessively will have to meet with the band director and may have his/her grade lowered.

Band Fee

Students are charged a minimal fee of \$30 each to use the school's equipment as a band fee. The money helps to offset costs of routine maintenance of the instruments and to purchase items needed to facilitate learning in the band environment. (Please remember that if a student causes damage to their instruments, they are still responsible for their repair). The fee is only paid once a year per child, regardless of how many different instruments the students play.

Instrument Care

Students need to take good care of their instruments. All of the instruments are important regardless of age or condition. Therefore, I expect all of the school instruments to be kept clean and well-maintained. Students will wipe or swab their instruments daily and will do an extensive cleaning of their instruments after every performance.

If an instrument needs adjusting, new corks or pads, etc., notify the band director or one of the Equipment Managers and the instrument will be repaired. **Items such as cork grease, swabs, wiping cloths, or other maintenance items shall be kept in the case at all times.**

Students whose instruments are lost, stolen or damaged due to negligence will have to pay for the loss/damages.

***Please be especially careful with swabbing your instruments. We have had numerous incidents with swabs getting stuck so severely in the instruments that we need to pay for the instruments to be repaired at qualified instrument repair shops.**

School instruments are State property. Please respect them.

Concert Band/Symphonic Wind Ensemble Uniform

Since we are not planning on having any performances during the first semester, you will not be required to purchase a band uniform at this time. It is possible that we will either resume our normal operations or continue having our modified schooling during the second semester. If we resume normal operations, you will be required to purchase our uniform as follows:

Males- White **tuxedo** shirt with **long sleeves** and a **wing-tip collar**
 Black **Suit coat**
 Black **bowtie**
 Black **dress pants** (No jeans or cargo pants)
 Black **dress shoes** with **black socks**

Females- Black **dress** (Dress **must** reach mid-calf or lower when you are standing)
 Skin-colored **Nylon Stockings** (Pantyhose)

Black **dress shoes or sandals**

*NO spaghetti strap dresses or blouse/skirt combinations because of stomachs showing. **No exceptions.**

Note: No jeans, cargo pants, T-shirts, casual shoes, or short dresses are allowed. Please be tasteful with your wardrobe. If in doubt, ask the band director. Students not in compliance will be sent home, and their grades will be affected. *There will be a day where I will check the uniforms in advance to approve them.

Pep Band uniform

You will NOT be required to purchase the uniform at this time. But for your reference, if we resume our normal operations in the second semester, you will need to purchase the following:

Blue Band polo shirt (purchased through the band)

Black Jeans/pants (No holes or non-black pants, please)

Black shoes

Black belt

Parade Uniform

We will NOT be participating in parades, this year.

Materials needed for band class

Everyone:

Pencils

Paper for note-taking (Can be composition book or binder and folder paper)

Instrument(s)

Instrument maintenance equipment (swabs, polish cloths, rags, oil, grease)

Assigned music books

1" Black Binder and sheet protectors for concert music

School ID

Other supplies will be mentioned as needed.

Instrument lyre (All instruments except percussion)

Optional, but recommended:

Electronic tuner (Price ranges from \$15-\$100)

Clip-on microphone for tuner (IF you purchase a tuner, this is recommended. About \$12)

Metronome (Also around \$20-\$100)

Tuner and metronome apps for your phone (Most are free)

Depending on your instrument:

Mouthpiece(s) (Advanced or pro models highly recommended)

Drumsticks (All percussionists are REQUIRED to own their own snare drumsticks)

High quality reeds (Vandoren blue box, Rico Royal, etc. No plain orange box Ricos or

low-quality plastic reeds).

Valve oil (Fast, Blue Juice, Hetman, etc.)

Slide grease

Tuning slide grease

Key oil

Polishing cloth (Please buy appropriate cloth. No lacquered polishing cloths on silver-plated, etc.)

*When entering high school, an upgrade to an intermediate or professional model mouthpiece is highly recommended.

***Although apps for smartphones can be music-related (metronomes, tuners, etc.) cell phones and tablets of any type may NOT be used during class.**

Fundraising

Running a band program is very costly because of the costs of instruments, instrument repairs, equipment, buses, food for the students, etc. Waipahu High School alone cannot provide the entire budget that we need to build and sustain a successful program. Thus, the Marauder Band Boosters will coordinate several fundraisers for the booster budget, which benefits each student in the band.

Students will also be able to fundraise for their personal accounts, which can only be used for large, band-related events such as trips, band camp, banquet, mouthpieces, boxes of reeds, etc. These types of fundraisers are recommended, **but are optional**.

***You are NOT allowed to sell items on your own or participate in personal fundraisers using the band's name. Please refrain from doing your own fundraisers while representing the band (e.g. selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts while wearing your band polo shirts). The band Executive Officers and the Band Boosters will coordinate fundraisers for you.**

Band Camp

We usually have a Band Camp at Camp Erdman in February. This is normally a mandatory part of the concert band course and must be attended, unless your absence is approved by the band director.

The band camp will offer practice time, clinicians, and activities for the students to become better performers.

We will let you know if Band Camp will be happening this year.

Band Banquet

At the end of the year, the band celebrates the year's accomplishments with a band banquet. All

current band members, their families, and alumni are invited to attend. Cost will be in the \$40 range. Band students accounts can be used to pay for the student and his/her family members. Students that are not in the band are not allowed to attend. More information will come closer to the date (May). *I am hoping that we will be able to have the banquet this year. I will notify you if we proceed with the banquet.

Waipahu High School Band Handbook 2020-2021 Contract

We, _____ and _____,
(Print student name) (Print parent name)

have read and understand the contents of the **2020-2021 Waipahu High School Band Handbook**, and agree to abide by the policies within.

We understand that if we have any questions regarding any of the Waipahu High School Band's policies, we can first contact Mr. Henry Fu, Band Director at 307-9409 or e-mail him at waipahuhsband@gmail.com

We understand that if we chose the full-distance learning option for the school year, but still decided to enroll in band, that we will fully participate in the assignments and projects that are assigned.

** If you do not agree with our policies, please **do not sign** this contract and contact your counselor to transfer to another class.*

Parent Signature X _____ Date _____

Student Signature X _____ Date _____