

Castle High School “Marching Knights” Band

The Castle High School Marching Knights Band and Color Guard hails from the Windward side of our island in the city of Kaneohe. Locally, the Castle Band annually participates in the Aloha Festivals Parade, the Waikiki Holiday Parade, the Kaneohe Christmas Parade, and the Honolulu City Lights Parade. The band program also participates in numerous events organized by the Oahu Band Directors Association and has also performed for Hawaii International Jazz Festival, Oahu Interscholastic Association Corporate Banquet, and the Oahu Public Schools Foundation Banquet. Our Jazz Band has performed at the USS Battleship Missouri, Blue Note Hawaii, Gordon Biersch, Kahala Mall, Ala Moana and Windward Mall.

Band 1 through 4: one credit

Each class is designed to perform appropriate music, and to develop musical skills, leadership, self-discipline, and an appreciation for all types of music. A positive attitude and willingness to cooperate with the band director, staff, chaperones and fellow students is required. Individual practice, section practice, auditions and performance tests are also part of the coursework.

All band students are required to purchase uniforms and supplies for their instruments. Voluntary membership in the Castle Band Aid Association (CBAA) is encouraged. Dues are applied to the general fund of the CBAA to assist with band activities, purchasing of music, food for the students and volunteers, purchasing and repairs of instruments and cases, facility fees and other operational expenses. Students are encouraged to participate in fundraising to offset costs for band related activities.

Band classes are divided into performing ensembles which are the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Parades Band and Field Show Band. Placement in these ensembles is done by approval of the Band Director.

The following activities are required for all band students who are registered for Band 1 through 4:

- Pep Band at Football Games
- Aloha Festivals Parade
- Winter Concert (December)
- Spring Concerts (March/May)
- Parade of Bands (April)
- Waikiki Holiday Parade
- Kaneohe Christmas Parade
- Honolulu City Lights Parade
- CHS Graduation (excluding seniors)

All bands have required sectionals/practices/rehearsals and other additional concerts and performances as scheduled throughout the year. Summer practices before school opens are mandatory for upcoming parades, pep band and for students participating in field show.

Field Show: 1/2 credit

Field Show Marching Band students will learn all the necessary elements of a marching field show. Mandatory practices are held during the late summer before school opens. The practices include a week-long band camp during the fall recess and practices during the fall semester. These practices will culminate with mandatory performances at selected Castle High School football games and various local marching band festivals.

Afterschool 1/2 credit class for the 1st semester. Members of the band perform music while executing drill designs. The band performs at various marching band festivals, such as the Rainbow Invitational, OIA Marching Band Festival, Moanalua Menehune Classic, Mililani Trojan Bandfest, Kapolei Marching Band Festival and the Kamehameha Tournament of Bands.

Jazz Band: 1 credit

Approval and concurrent enrollment in a Symphonic Band class is required for enrollment in the Jazz Band. The Jazz Band class will have the same requirements as the Symphonic Band class as described above. Students enrolled in Jazz Band will perform on an instrument of regular Jazz Band instrumentation (saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, trap set percussion, electric bass, electric guitar). The Jazz Band meets during non-school hours. Students enrolled in this band class study and rehearse a variety of jazz styles, including classic and contemporary arrangements and improvisation. The Jazz Band performs at the Winter Concert, Aloha Concert and at various venues throughout Oahu as scheduled throughout the year.

About our Band Director

Arnold A. Alconcel was raised in Aiea and is a graduate of Aiea High School. He attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa and holds a bachelor's degree and a Professional Diploma in Secondary Music Education.

Mr. Alconcel is an experienced music director. His past experience teaching music includes Aiea Intermediate School, Kaimuki Middle School and Kalakaua Middle School. The vast majority of his teaching career has been here at Castle High School teaching music and directing the band since 1996. Outside of his teaching at Castle High School, Mr. Alconcel is also an active member of the Oahu Band Directors Association (OBDA), and has served as President of the OBDA. He has also served as chair of the OBDA High School Select Band.

On a personal note, Mr. Alconcel plays the saxophone, and loves to eat sushi.

Castle High School Band Program - FAQ

What are the benefits of being in the Castle High School Band?

There are several! First and foremost, the band program is a well-rounded music education. The students will not only progress on their instruments but will also gain appreciation and understanding of all music types. Second, the process of setting attainable goals and the hard work that it takes to achieve them. Third, the teamwork, camaraderie, and sense of family that the students achieve after many hours of hard work and the feeling of fulfillment that follows.

Can I play in sports, be in drama or student government and still be in band? Yes.

Are the following activities mandatory?

- Football Games – Yes
- All Concerts – Yes
- All Parades – Yes
- Field Show Practice – Yes, if you are registered
- Jazz Band Practice – yes if you are registered

Can I be excused from performing at a concert/field show/parade?

Only in extreme instances that involve major family or health reasons. Any requests for an “excused absence” need to be approved by the Band Director.

Examples of excusable absences are:

- Major health issue/illness (verified by parent’s note)
- Doctor’s appointment. (emergencies only)
- Major family function
- Major religious function

Can I bring up my grade if I can't make a required band activity?

If the absence is considered excused, make-up assignments will be determined by the Band Director.

Can I make up a missed practice if I'm absent?

Yes, if the absence is excused, a make-up assignment will be determined by the Band Director.

Can parents drive their children to the events on their own?

We discourage parents from driving their child to an event on their own. It's strongly recommended that all students stay together as a group. Chaperones attend events and supervise the students. We encourage parents to volunteer to chaperone. Depending on the event, it is very difficult to coordinate drop off and pick up times and locations. Buses are on a time schedule and cannot wait if a parent is late due to traffic or other reasons.

If I selected band as an elective but I didn't get it, can I still join the band?

See Mr. Alconcel.

What if I play the oboe, bassoon or bass clarinet. What instrument will I play at football games or marching in parades?

Students who play the oboe, bassoon or bass clarinet can also play the saxophone, clarinet, percussion or participate with the color guard. See Mr. Alconcel.

Is summer marching practice mandatory? Yes. Students learn the basics of marching. Practices are held at the end of July.

Is band camp mandatory?

Only for students who are committed to field show. Students learn/practice for field show. Band camp is held during fall recess.

How often is practice after school?

Practices are twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Sectionals may be scheduled after school and during Friday learning blocks determined by the section leaders.

What is color guard?

The color guard is a section of the marching band that uses flags along with dance to visualize the music played by the band. In field show competitions, the color guard is an essential component of the band and their performance is influential in the overall score. This diverse group welcomes performers of all skill levels.

Can I be in color guard but not be in band? Yes.

When are the rehearsals for Jazz Band?

Jazz Band rehearsals are currently held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Can I be in Jazz Band and not be in the Symphonic Band?

No. The only exception is if a student plays certain instruments that are needed (bass, guitar, piano).

How often does the band take a trip?

Band trips may occur anywhere from one to three years apart and will only be planned if the band has the proper instrumentation and attitudes.

Are General Membership Meetings required?

These meetings are not required but they are important to attend. At the meetings, information is disseminated regarding band events/activities and items/forms are distributed. The meetings also provide a forum for information about the band. We try to keep these meetings brief and encourage all to attend. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month.

Are CBAA dues only used to pay for the transportation?

No. Dues are applied to the general fund to assist with band activities, purchase of music, food for the students and volunteers, purchasing and repairs of instruments and cases, facilities fees, etc. Non-members of CBAA are charged a non-member fee for CBAA sponsored activities. Accommodations can be made for families that are financially challenged by contacting CBAA.

Interested in being part of the CBAA Board of Directors?

Please contact us at cbaa.president@gmail.com