



HONGWANJI MISSION SCHOOL

where values merge with innovation



OUR MISSION:

Developing children academically, physically, socially, and spiritually through programs guided by Buddhist values.

OUR SCHOOL:

Hongwanji Mission School (HMS) is a private coeducational, independent, Buddhist school located in Nu‘uanu Valley, adjacent to downtown Honolulu. We are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS).

At HMS we strive to provide a safe environment that stresses a diverse and challenging academic curriculum with emphasis on moral and spiritual values. We recognize that each student is an individual worthy of personal attention. We maintain small class sizes so that our teachers can provide as much guidance and instruction as possible.

We offer an extensive after-school program, winter and spring recess care, and an all-day summer program. Our facilities include a computer center, gymnasium, swimming pool, library, tennis court, and cafeteria.

OUR CURRICULUM:

Hongwanji Mission School is a 21st Century school. We integrate technology, life experiences and Buddhist values to develop individuals who can effectively contribute to Hawaii’s multi-cultural society and the world beyond. We prepare our students to become compassionate, responsible and committed lifelong learners.

PROGRAM OF STUDY:

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| Core Subjects | Resource Classes | | Middle School Choice Electives |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts • Math • Science • Social Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Buddhist Education • Drama • Guidance • Japanese | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Science • Music • Physical Education • Sports • Swimming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taiko • Technology Literacy • Art Intensive • Beginning Ukulele • Computer Design • Hiki No Select • Physical Education • Japanese Culture & Sports • Select Taiko • Volleyball Intensive |

PRESCHOOL (Age 3) AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN (Age 4):

Our philosophy is that early childhood should be a time of fun, warmth, security, and exploration. Lessons are based on the idea that child development occurs in a predictable series of stages. Play is incorporated into daily instruction and classroom tasks are challenging yet attainable. The preschool/pre-k curriculum addresses the individual child’s needs, interests, experiences, feelings, and ideas to nurture a natural enthusiasm for learning. Parents are encouraged to partner with teachers in supporting their child’s academic and social success.

ELEMENTARY (Kindergarten - Grade 5):

The elementary level curriculum is progressive and multi-dimensional. Students learn to collaborate and support each other in the learning process. Teachers work as a team to instruct the core subject areas. Resource teachers enhance the children’s learning experiences by integrating their specialized area of knowledge.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 - 8):

Our middle school program provides a structure that is specifically designed for young adolescents. Students are continually making connections between the curriculum and their lives. Middle School teachers work as a team, each teaching their specialized core subject area (Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies) to all grade levels. Resource and elective courses are taught by teachers who specialize in their subject area.

BUDDHIST VALUES:

While students are neither required nor expected to become Buddhists – and many practice other faiths – Buddhist values permeate school life. Using classroom lessons, life experiences and activities, students are taught and guided to live a life of compassion, interdependence and oneness with self, others and nature. Students are taught the concepts of Dana (Giving), Sila (Precept, Morality), Patience, Effort/Endeavor, Meditation, and Wisdom.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Students participate in community service projects as well as appeals for assistance on behalf of community-based institutions. Having our students provide this service perpetuates the Buddhist belief that students must continually learn and grow toward attaining wisdom, compassion, and an appreciation of the oneness of all life.

SPORTS:

As part of the Private School Sports League, HMS sponsors both boys and girls teams which compete in basketball and volleyball. Our sports program promotes teamwork, perseverance, discipline, sportsmanship, and fair play, while upholding Buddhist values.

TRADITIONS PROGRAM:

Students connect their studies to real world applications through experiential learning. Three off-island educational tours enhance students' understanding of the curriculum.

- **4TH GRADE BIG ISLAND STUDY TOUR:**

This social studies based unit integrates science, math, language arts, music, and physical education, and develops independence, responsibility and social skills. Objectives are to explore the geography and geology of the island of Hawaii, develop respect for native plants and fauna, cultivate knowledge of history and culture, and enrich the students' background of Hawaiian legends and folklore. A few of the places students visit include Volcanoes National Park, Queen Liliuokalani Gardens, and the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center.

- **5TH GRADE EAST COAST STUDY TOUR:**

Based on the History of the United States up to the Civil War, the students experience colonial life in Williamsburg and Jamestown, Virginia, visit museums and memorials in the nation's capital, see a play on Broadway, and walk the Freedom Trail in Boston.

- **8TH GRADE JAPAN STUDY TOUR:**

Students visit our sister school, Chinzei Keiai Gakuen, in Fukuoka and homestay for two nights and three days. Students travel by bullet train, ferry, and commuter trains to visit Miyajima, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Park, the Headquarters of the Honpa Hongwanji in Kyoto, and Tokyo. This study tour provides an opportunity to be immersed in Japanese language and culture.



ENRICHMENT:

- **DAY CARE**

For a nominal fee, students in Kindergarten and 1st grade are eligible to enroll in our before (7-8 a.m.) and after-school (2:30-5:30 p.m.) day care program.

- **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (3-5:30 p.m.)**

Our after school program offers various extracurricular options for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Operated by Hongwanji Mission School and Fort Gakuen Japanese Language School, the program includes study time, aikido, art, ballet, chess, clay, digital media, Japanese, judo, karate, LEGO Robotics, sports, and swimming, among other activities. These classes are available for a nominal fee.



- **HMS PERFORMING THEATRE PROGRAM**

Students in grades 3-8 work and star in an annual stage production. Past performances include: The Emperor's New Clothes, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Honk Jr., Seussical Jr., and Beauty and the Beast Jr.

- **SUMMER SCHOOL**

Our six-week session for students in preschool through 7th grade provides a balanced program of academic subjects in the morning and enrichment classes in the afternoon. Kindergarten through grade 7 morning classes include reading and writing, mathematics, LEGO Robotics, Kids Invent Science, Japanese, and sports. The afternoon program includes lessons in Chinese, Hawaiian, Japanese, and Samoan cultures, art, drama, martial arts, swimming, tennis, and a variety of other activities.

- **RECESS CARE**

HMS families who are in need of child care during our fall, winter, spring or post-summer break can take advantage of our all-day program of fun and educational activities at a very affordable cost. The typical recess care day includes breakfast, an excursion (e.g. a hike to Makapu'u Lighthouse, exploring the Discovery Center), lunch, and swimming at our pool. Families may sign up for the duration of the recess period or attend on selected days.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION:

Our PTO is comprised of dedicated volunteer parents and faculty who sponsor educational events and family activities during the school year. Parents are a critical link in our school's ohana and work collaboratively with teachers and staff in providing all of our students with a quality education.