



October 8, 2008

## Niu Valley band director leads new music program

*East Oahu People Staff*

EAST OAHU — The Hawaii Youth Symphony (HYS) and the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii (BGCH) have appointed Niu Valley Middle School band director Wayne Fanning as instructor for a new band academy called the Boys & Girls Club Band.

The band program runs through May 14 of next year, with breaks during school intercessions and holidays.

Open to students ages 10 and older, the band meets from 5-6:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. In addition, a general music program, which teaches the basics of music and provides exposure to orchestral instruments, is open to students ages 7-10.

Classes are held from 3:45-4:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the BGCH Spalding Clubhouse, located at 1704 Waiola St. in Makiki.

There is no charge to participate in the program, except \$1 per year for BGCH membership.

No prior music experience is necessary, and HYS provides instruments and supplies without charge.

By paying the BGCH membership fee, youth not only have access to the HYS academy program, but are able to participate in a number of year-round programs.

"There are many students who are not able to take band at their schools for various reasons, and this program allows them to participate in a band program," Fanning explained. "Our goal is to expose these students to the endless benefits of music and encourage them to transition back into their school band program, if one is available.

"For those students who don't have a school band, this provides them with the opportunity to participate in a quality program and to interact with other students who enjoy music," he added.

BGCH band members learn the basics of note and rhythm reading, perform on a band instrument both alone and with others, and will participate in two live performances.

"We hope all of this exposure to music in a comfortable environment will lead to increased awareness, support and enthusiasm for these students for music in our public schools," Fanning stated.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for kids to learn music from some of our most experienced musical instructors," added BGCH executive director David Nakada. Call 949-4203 or see [www.bgch.com](http://www.bgch.com).

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