



*"I want children to learn and to enjoy learning.  
Life is a joy, so should be learning." -- Mae Carden*

# Carden Academy of Maui

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Founded: 1998

Grades Served: Pre-Kindergarten  
Elementary Grades K - 5  
Middle School Grades 6 - 8

Enrollment Capacity: 172 Students  
Maximum of 12 students in Pre-K - K  
Maximum of 18 students per grade in 1 - 8

Administration: Kristi Bendon, Head of School  
Lenna Miller, Assistant Head of School  
Mari Jo Brown, Admissions & Communications  
Jennifer Haleakala, Front Office Manager  
Michelle Davenport, Business Manager/Counselor  
Rachael Barnard, Development Coordinator  
Amanda Mori, Facilities & IT Manager

Board of Directors: David Goode, President  
Erik McLellan, Vice President  
Bard Peterson, Treasurer  
Linda Higgins, Secretary  
Chris Baldwin, Member  
Brian Bowers, Member  
Melissa Hampe, Member  
Ta'i Judd, Member  
Tak Sugimura, Member  
Heather Wittenberg, Member



## Mission & Vision

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*Carden Academy of Maui is committed to educating the whole child through a balance of academic excellence, character development, and enrichment through the arts in a nurturing, small classroom setting.*

*Carden Academy of Maui's vision is to foster a joyful and respectful community of lifelong learners who embody the principles of authenticity, resilience, and global stewardship.*

*Purposefulness*







## Small School - Big Goals

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Carden Academy of Maui is an independent, non-denominational school offering superior education to students in Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade. Our students are encouraged to be independent, self-motivated, inquisitive, and respectful learners.

Our school is based on the philosophy of world-renowned educator, Mae Carden, whose Carden Method recognizes and celebrates the unlimited potential of each child.

We educate the whole child: academically, socially, emotionally, and physically through a proven curriculum that is enriched with foreign language, music, art, dance, and physical education.

Our goal is to provide our students with the knowledge, tools, and foundation necessary to be successful and confident members of society.

Carden Academy instills values and virtues to last a lifetime. Character training is a central element of the educational scheme from the earliest years. Students learn that concern for others enhances their own well-being and enriches their learning experiences.

*nderliness* *Friendliness*

# Academics



The Carden Method features an integrated curriculum that emphasizes the interrelationships of the content of core subjects. It is used by more than 80 Carden schools across the nation.

Throughout our growth, we have been vigilant in our commitment to our method and philosophy. We seek to enhance the curriculum and learning environment, while maintaining our small class sizes.

We have adopted the highly acclaimed Singapore Math, integrated computer technology, and have an innovative robotics club that placed 2nd overall in the first Lego League State Competition.

The importance of the written word is highly valued at Carden Academy. Students are encouraged to express their creativity, and our students have been top finishers in state and county poetry and essay contests for many consecutive years.

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## Music & Arts



Music and the visual & performing arts offer our students an opportunity to express themselves creatively and artistically. We believe the arts are essential to a well-rounded educational experience.

Art history and the language of art is taught by our resident artist/teacher. Students explore and experience different mediums, techniques, and genres of art.

The music program incorporates singing, reading music, and learning a progression of instruments. Students perform on a regular basis during school and community events.

Students build confidence and poise as they participate in dance and performing arts programs.

*fulness*

# Community Service

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Carden Academy of Maui is a small school doing big things in our community, on Maui, and around the world.

Mae Carden had a philosophy that all people should contribute to the human race, and that happiness is a byproduct of helping and doing “good” for others. Our students are encouraged to embrace this philosophy in their lives at school and at home.

Carden Academy students helped to raise over \$10K for the Japanese Earthquake/Tsunami relief efforts with their “Jeans for Japan” school fundraiser and the “Pray for Japan/Jewelry for Japan” sales initiative. Their efforts inspired Maui County Mayor Alan Arakawa, and as a result, the school and Maui County hosted a county-wide “Wear Jeans for Japan” fundraiser.

Students collect donations for the Maui Food Bank, collect and wrap toys for the Maui United Way holiday fundraiser, partner with Backpack Buddies, and participate in the VIP Soccer Program for special needs children.

Our environmental education, stewardship, and sustainable living curriculum is demonstrated through the Adopt-a-Highway, recycling, and reusable bag initiatives, as well as our Carden Garden.





## Sustainable Living



*Resourcefulness*  
*operation*





# Cultural Exchange

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Our students engage in broad international exchanges.



Hawaii

The rich history and traditions of the Hawaiian Islands are experienced through art, dance, music, language, and story-telling. During the annual Lei Day celebration, students perform and sing Hawaiian dances and songs.



France

Elementary school students apply their French language skills with their pen-pals in France through letters, art, photographs, and occasional school visits.



China

Carden Academy hosts an annual, week-long language and arts exchange with students and teachers from the Haidan Foreign Language School in Beijing, China.



Rwanda

Middle school students have been pen-pals with students at a school in Rwanda. Additionally, money collected through the middle school recycling program helped supply the Rwandan school with books and supplies.

*Courtesy* *Tolerance*





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## Athletics

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Carden Academy of Maui offers a comprehensive physical education and athletics program that emphasizes personal achievement, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

During physical education classes, students learn the rules and strategies of sports and games. They also learn about the importance of physical activity to support a healthy lifestyle.

Students are encouraged to join our after school inter-scholastic sports teams, where everyone has the opportunity to play. Currently, we offer cross-country, volleyball, flag football, basketball, and track & field.

Carden Academy holds league titles and championship trophies for cross-country and has been recognized for "Good Sportsmanship" by the Maui County Sports League.

Carden Academy participates annually in athletic events around Maui County including racing in the Maui 5K and the Front Street Mile, as well as volunteering at a support station for the Maui Marathon.

*Ambition* *Enthusiasm*

# Testimonials

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*Carden's uniqueness lies in the structure that it provides the students for learning and exploring their world within a safe, nurturing environment. There is a unity to the program through the works of Mae Carden that gives the students a sense of wonder and encouragement, that challenges each child to achieve his or her best within a small class environment, and an emphasis on the integration of learning. All of this is punctuated with respect for others and service to the community. One only needs to spend a short time on the campus to understand why Carden is such a wise choice for a growing child.*

**-Lehn Huff, Carden Board of Directors**

*I love teaching at Carden Academy. It is exciting to be part of a program which, in addition to a strong academic curriculum, develops the whole child through education in the arts, character development, and citizenship. The small class sizes are conducive to this, and also allow the teacher to meet the individual needs of each student. It is an ideal learning environment, and there is a wonderful sense of community among the families and staff. I am privileged and proud to be part of the Carden 'ohana.*

**-Barbara Rudow, 4th grade teacher**

*There are so many reasons that I love teaching at Carden Academy. It is hard to limit myself to just one, but a small class size is definitely at the top of my long list. A small class allows me to get to know each student personally. This type of relationship offers the opportunity to be invested in each child's academic successes as well as their personal triumphs. The students feel valued, which truly builds a sense of community in the classroom. It is such a nice place to be and I would not want to be anywhere else.*

**-Christie Leval, 3rd grade teacher**

*I love teaching at Carden because it is a family, from administration to faculty, to parents and students. Our goal is to allow each student a place where they can thrive educationally and socially while still being able to be a child. Each day is a new adventure that I embark upon with enthusiasm!*

**-Tracey Takase, 8th grade homeroom & Middle School math teacher**

## From Our 'Ohana

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*Dax has been going to Carden since Kindergarten. I have witnessed firsthand the love and support that is given to my son by every member of this 'Ohana. They have slowly molded him into this smart, caring, considerate, and happy individual. When they say they care first about your child and second about everything else, they are not kidding. I know that he truly feels that there is nothing that he cannot do, and that has spilled over into his life outside of school too. Thank you Carden for giving so much to Dax and truly making him a better person. I can't tell you how much it means to me. Maui is truly blessed to have such a wonderful school for our children to grow up in.*

**-Kyla Barker, parent**

*Carden Academy is the definition of a perfect private school. While attending three wonderful years at Carden, I was encouraged to become the enthusiastic student I am today. My favorite part about Carden was the student to teacher ratio because I was able to have much more one-on-one time with my teachers than I would have had in a public school. Carden will forever remain in my memories as a wonderful school where knowledge is the seed of life.*

**-Devon T. Fleck, Carden alumnus**

*I attended Carden Academy from first grade through fifth grade and I loved every minute of my education there. All of my teachers challenged me to do my best, while making learning interesting and fun. Classes were small, so my classmates were like my family. I really appreciated Carden's balance of academics, physical activity, and the arts. Likewise, Carden did not overwhelm me with homework after school, so I had the free time to be with my family and to just be a kid. In sixth grade, I went on to Seabury Middle School and was able to make a smooth transition to fulfill Seabury's high academic standards, because Mrs. Mori, my fifth grade teacher at Carden, had prepared me to always strive for academic excellence.*

**-Jeremy Morton, Carden alumnus**

*Our granddaughter Devon attended Carden Academy for 6th through 8th grades. Carden helped prepare her for her acceptance into Seabury Hall, which was Devon's #1 priority. I highly recommend Carden to any parent considering enrolling their child in the school. Carden Academy offers each and every child a wonderful curriculum.*

**-Gloria J. Fleck, grandmother of Carden alumnus**

*Sincerity*

*Humility*

For more information or to make an online contribution  
visit us at [cardenmaui.org](http://cardenmaui.org)



55 Maka'ena Place  
Pukalani, HI 96768

Phone (808) 573-6651  
Fax (808) 573-6652