

West Friendship Elementary School

12500 Frederick Road
West Friendship, Maryland 21794
(410) 313-5512

Carol Hahn
Principal

Patricia Lannon
Assistant Principal



Dear Parents/Guardians of Advanced Band Students:

Hello! My name is Amy Syversen and I am honored to be the band director at West Friendship Elementary School. Your child attended an assembly where the students had the opportunity to meet with me and learn about the band program. If your son or daughter was in Beginning Band last year, he or she is automatically a member this year of the Advanced Band! I know it will be a wonderful year in music at West Friendship. I believe children have talent in music in their own special way, and it is my job to help them discover their musical gift. In order to do that, the students will be taking part in a variety of music activities. These are designed to help your child develop musical skills and to know and appreciate many different styles of music.

Performing in instrumental music ensembles gives students so much more than just musical training. Students learn cooperation and teamwork, commitment and responsibility, tolerance and acceptance, and perseverance and self-discipline. Performing with a group that plays well helps build self-esteem, confidence and pride in accomplishment. Studying music also reinforces reading and math skills and enhances gross and fine motor skills.

You can help reinforce what your child is learning in school in several ways:

- Listen to music together
- Attend school and community concerts, including local middle and high school concerts
- Check out CD's and tapes from the public library
- Encourage your child, as I have, to share with you some of the things they are learning in music class

These are just a few ways music can be extended from school to your home.

Each student will attend band for two thirty-minute sessions per week, but because band will be taught on a rotating schedule, students will only miss the same class/time slot every couple of weeks or so. One session will be a small group lesson and one a full band rehearsal each week. Classroom teachers are supportive of the band program and provide students with the make up work necessary to keep them on track in other subjects. Classes will be divided into woodwind, brass and percussion groups.

If your child isn't certain if they want to continue in band, I ask that they at least attend two weeks of sessions to remember the excitement and fun that comes from being in the band.

Band classes will begin approximately on Monday, September 13th. A schedule of specific class times will be distributed as soon as possible. This schedule will also be available online at www.amybejm.com.

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All band students should bring:

- Instruments (with names on cases or attached to cases with a name tag)
- Two pencils with erasers
- Method book entitled "Measures of Success A Comprehensive Musicianship Band Method" – Book 1 for the appropriate instrument (in addition, percussionists need *Mark Wessel's A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion, Alfred's Drum Method - Book 1*)
- All accessories listed on the following page for the appropriate instrument (you probably already have them)

Continued use of a metronome during home practice is critical. **Please be sure that corks are greased, valves are oiled, reeds are new, and that instruments are clean and in good playing condition!**

Many of you may be enrolled in private lessons and likely enjoy them greatly. I do strongly encourage private lessons for all Advanced Band members. An updated list of private instructors in the area can be found at:

<http://sites.google.com/site/hcparents4schoolmusic/Home>

As I'm sure your child knows from last year, attendance at all Band classes and performances is vital, as is home practice. Please remember that there is a direct relationship between consistent correct practice and a high degree of success and enjoyment in instrumental music. I hope that EVERYONE will be practicing at least 10-20 minutes per day!

In addition, Advanced Band students are invited to join the WFES/DOES combined Jazz Band. This group is an extra curricular group that meets weekly after school on Tuesdays from 4:10pm-5:10pm at Dayton Oaks Elementary School. Jazz Band rehearsals begin in November and continue through the end of the school year. Information on joining the Jazz Band will be sent home and put on the website at www.amybejm.com

I am looking forward to meeting each of you at **on Tuesday, September 21st during our brief Instrumental Music Parent Meeting at 7:15pm in the WFES Media Center.** If you have any questions, please contact me at any time!! My email address is amy_syversen@hcpss.org. You can also leave a message for me at WFES at 410-313-5512 or contact me at home at 301-661-6654.

Don't forget to visit the band website at www.amybejm.com See you soon!

Musically Yours,

Amy Syversen, Band Director

Should I continue to support my child's interest in Band??????

We've always known that music is good for your spirits. Now, scientists are finding out that it's good for your brain, too. According to new research, active music-making has a direct connection to the brain's inner workings – in fact, the brain seems to operate according to patterns that closely resemble musical notes! Studies have linked active music-making with better language and math ability, improved school grades, better-adjusted social behavior, and improvements in "spatial-temporal reasoning," which is the foundation of engineering and science.

- A neurological research team reports that music training is far superior to computer instruction in dramatically enhancing children's abstract reasoning skills, which are necessary for learning math and science.
- Students who participate in their school Band or Orchestra are 52 percent more likely to go on to college and to graduate.
- Music lessons have been shown to improve a child's performance in school. After eight months of keyboard lessons, preschoolers tested showed a 46 percent boost in their spatial IQ, which is crucial for higher brain functions such as complex mathematics.
- A 1995 study suggests that there is a direction correlation between improved SAT scores and the length of time spent studying the arts. Those who studied the arts four or more years scored 59 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math portions of the SAT than students with no coursework or experience in the arts.

DUE BY SEPTEMBER 8TH
**West Friendship
Elementary School
Advanced Band**

**Application to Join the
Advanced Band Program**



Please Print

Student's Name: _____
Last First Middle

Grade: _____ Classroom Teacher: _____

Mother's/Guardians Name: _____
Last First

Father's/Guardian's Name: _____
Last First

Are you available to volunteer with the band program? Yes No (circle one)
If yes, please send an email confirmation to amy_syversen@hcpss.org

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone(s): _____

Primary Email Address (required): _____

Instrument you play: _____

Middle School you will be attending: _____

Tell me what you liked best about being in the band program last year:

What did you like least?

Please note any medical conditions that require special needs below:

WFES Band T Shirt Order (optional)

Quantity: _____ Size(s): YM YL AS AM AL AXL AXXL (circle)

*Please Note: Shirt money will be collected once all Band T Shirt orders have been placed.
Prices are determined based on the number of shirts ordered.*

West Friendship Elementary School Band

Required Materials – You probably already have most of these!

The following is a list of the required materials you will need to succeed. You may want to rent or lease your child's selected instrument from a local music store. *If you would like to be in band but are unable to rent an instrument please see or contact Mrs. Syversen as soon as possible. Band lessons will begin on the week of September 13th.*

All Students:

1. Wire Music Stand (*for home use, do not bring to school*) – this helps promote good posture and playing position during **home** practice
2. Instrument in good playing condition
3. Metronome (can be purchased for \$15 from a music store or www.wwbw.com)
4. Two pencils with erasers stored in your instrument case
5. Lesson Books: *****NEW!*****
Measures of Success A Comprehensive Musicianship Band Method
Book One for your instrument
6. 1½ inch 3-ring view binder (with front clear cover for insert)
7. One package of five index divider tabs for the binder labeled with the following sections: (1) schedule/handbook, (2) music, (3) practice charts, (4) scales/rhythm sheets, (5) handouts/other
8. One packet of sheet protectors (*optional*)

Flutes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flute tuning rod (should come with instrument) 2. Handkerchief or bandanna for cleaning inside of instrument 	Clarinets: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4 extra reeds AT ALL TIMES (Mitchell Lurie or Vandoren 2 strength) 2. Reed case that holds 4 reeds 3. Cork grease and Clarinet Swab 4. Mouthpiece cap
Oboes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4 extra handmade reeds AT ALL TIMES – Paul Sorten (740) 587-1603 2. Reed case that holds 4 reeds 3. Cork Grease, Silk Swab, Water Container 	Bassoons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4 extra handmade reeds AT ALL TIMES 2. Reed case that holds 4 reeds 3. Cleaning swab 4. Seat Strap, Crutch, Silk Swab and Paraffin
Saxophones: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4 extra reeds AT ALL TIMES Mitchell Lurie or Vandoren 2 or medium soft strength) 2. Reed case that holds 4 reeds 3. Cork grease 4. Sax swab or Pad saver 	Trumpets, Baritones and Tubas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bottle of Al Cass Brand Piston Valve Oil 2. Heavy Bodied Slide Oil by Hetman 3. Soft cloth for cleaning 4. Mouthpiece brush 5. Cleaning Snake
French Horns: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One bottle of Rotary Valve Oil by Hetman 2. Heavy Bodied Slide Oil by Hetman 3. Soft cloth for cleaning 4. Mouthpiece brush 	Trombones: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bottle of Slide-O-Mix 2. Heavy Bodied Slide Oil by Hetman 3. Spray bottle or "Bone" bottle 4. Soft cloth for cleaning 5. Mouthpiece brush
Percussion <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bell kit including drumsticks (Vic Firth SD1 Generals), an 8" tunable practice pad, practice pad/bell stand, a set of bells, and bell mallets. *NOTE: It is up to you, but it will NOT be necessary for you to purchase a snare drum for your child. 2. "Alfred's Drum Method Book" (<i>in addition to books above</i>) 3. "A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion" by Mark Wessels (<i>in addition to books above</i>) 4. Make sure your <i>Accent on Achievement</i> Book is the COMBINED book. 5. Stick Bag (<i>optional</i>) 	

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Local Music Stores

Here is a list of some of the music stores in this area where you may want to rent or purchase your instrument from as well as all other required materials for band.

Baltimore Brass Company

99 Mellor Ave.
Catonsville, MD. 21228
Toll Free: (866) TUBA-230/Local or outside of US: (410) 744-1723
<http://www.baltimorebrass.net>

Bill's Music

743 Frederick Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21228
Phone: (410) 788-8900 or Toll-Free: (800) 828-0023 Email: sales@billsmusic.com
<http://www.billsmusic.com/home.asp>

Coffey Music

31 East Main Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
Phone: (410) 876-1045 or (410) 848-5003
<http://www.musicsalesandlessons.com/>

Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center

Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center
11151 Veirs Mill Road, Wheaton, MD 20902 USA
Phone: (301) 946-8808 Email: sales@chucklevins.com
<http://www.wmcworld.com>

Music and Arts Center

Chatham Station
9210 Baltimore National Pike, Rt. 40 West
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Phone: (410) 461-1844
<http://www.musicarts.com/>

Stu's Music

723 Baltimore Blvd.
Westminster, Maryland 21157
Phone: (410) 876-7585 or (800) 908-7585 Email: stusmusic@stusmusic.com
<http://www.stusmusic.com>

Victor Litz Music Center

306 East Diamond Avenue Gaithersburg, Md. 20877
Phone: (301) 948-7478
<http://www.victorlitz.com/>