

West Friendship Elementary School

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

Carol Hahn
Principal

Patricia Lannon
Assistant Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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 me and learn about the band program at West Friendship Elementary School.

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 band students will be taking part in a variety of music activities. These activities will be designed to help the students 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, as well as 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.

Please talk with your child about today's band assembly to see if they have an interest in being a part of this exciting program. The instruments available for students to play will be:

Trombone	Flute	Percussion
Trumpet	French Horn	Saxophone
Clarinet	Baritone	Tuba

These instruments can all be rented or purchased at local music stores. *If you would like to be in band but are unable to rent an instrument please see or contact Mrs. Syversen.* I may receive multiple requests to play some instruments and, therefore, I am asking students to provide their first three choices. In order to maintain small class sizes and proper band balance, not every student will get their first choice instrument. I would also like students to explain briefly why they have chosen their particular first choice instrument. Maybe a sibling or parent has played it in the past, they might like the sound it makes or there may be something about the instrument that makes it special to them. Whatever the reasons, I want them to share those feelings. If a student explains that he or she has an extremely strong desire to play a specific instrument I will do my very best to give that student his or her first choice. I will also work with your child to see if the instrument they have chosen is a good physical match. I will then contact you and let you know which instrument your child will be playing.

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. 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.

Having high expectations and standards gives each student the benefit of enjoyment from their musical experiences. If your child chooses to become a member of the WFES band, he/she will be given a handbook that will explain those expectations and also the policies regarding your child's participation in the band program.

If your child would like to learn to play an instrument and be a part of the fun that comes with being a member of a band, **I ask that they complete the attached sheet and return it to me by Wednesday, September 8th. Band classes will begin on approximately Monday, September 13th.**

I am looking forward to meeting each of you on **Tuesday, September 21st during our brief Instrumental Music Parent Meeting at 7:15pm in the 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



West Friendship Elementary School

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

Carol Hahn
Principal

Patricia Lannon
Assistant Principal

West Friendship Elementary School Band

Instrument Try-Out Schedule

Fourth and Fifth grade students interested in joining band for the first time (this includes students who want to switch from strings to band) will have the opportunity to try out their first and second choice instruments and/or mouthpieces after the band recruitment assembly.

The band recruitment assembly will take place on Wednesday, September 1st at 9:45am in the Cafeteria. All fourth and fifth graders are invited to attend the assembly.

Fourth and Fifth Graders will meet with me in the band room on **Wednesday, September 1st** to try out instruments to help them make the right instrument selection.

The instrument try-out schedule is as follows:

Last Names **A – E** = 11:00am – 11:30am

Last Names **F – J** = 1:30am – 2:00pm

Last Names **K – O** = 2:00pm – 2:30pm

Last Names **P – T** = 2:30pm – 3:00pm

Last Names **U – Z** = 3:00pm – 3:30pm

Don't forget to turn in your Band Application by Wednesday, September 8th!!!

DUE BY SEPTEMBER 8th

West Friendship Elementary School Band

Application to Join the Beginning Band Program



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 Preference (please list three choices)

Available Instruments:

- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Clarinet
- French Horn
- Flute
- Baritone
- Tuba
- Saxophone
- Percussion

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

****In order to maintain small class sizes and proper band balance, not every student will get their first choice of instrument.**

In a few words, tell me why you have chosen your first choice instrument:

Please note any medical conditions that require special needs below and on back:

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 – Do not purchase instrument specific materials until Mrs. Syversen has confirmed with you through email which instrument your son or daughter will be playing

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.* **Please have all required materials listed below by Monday, September 13th at the latest:**

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:
 - 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>) 	

West Friendship Elementary School Band

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/>