

# West Friendship Elementary School

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

Carol Hahn  
Principal

Ann Steger  
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 7th. Band classes will begin on approximately Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.**

I am looking forward to meeting each of you on **Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.amybejm.com). See you soon!

Musically Yours,  
Amy Syversen, Band Director

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## 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 before the band recruitment assembly.

**The band recruitment assembly will take place on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm in the WFES Cafeteria. The entire school is invited to attend the assembly.**

**Fourth and Fifth Graders will meet with me in the band room on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> to try out instruments to help them make the right instrument selection.**

The instrument try-out schedule for Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> is as follows:

Mrs. Donaldson's Homeroom = 9:30am – 10:00am

Mrs. Dash's Homeroom = 10:00am – 10:30am

Mr. Cole's Homeroom = 10:30am – 11:00am

Fifth Graders Interested in Joining Band for the First Time = 11:00am – 11:30am

*Don't forget to turn in your Band Application by Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>!!!*

DUE BY SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>

# 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

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.wwbw.com))
4. Two pencils with erasers stored in your instrument case *at all times*
5. Lesson Books:  
*Measures of Success A Comprehensive Musicianship Band Method Bk One* for your instrument
6. 1½ inch 3-ring binder
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*)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Trombones:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bottle of Slide-O-Mix or "Superslick Slick-It Kit"</li> <li>2. Tuning Slide Grease</li> <li>3. Water Spray bottle or "Bone" bottle</li> <li>4. Polishing Cloth</li> <li>5. Mouthpiece brush</li> <li>6. Cleaning Snake</li> </ol>  | <b>Clarinets:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4 extra reeds AT ALL TIMES (Rico or Mitchell Lurie 2 strength)</li> <li>2. Reed case that holds 4 reeds</li> <li>3. Cork grease and Clarinet Swab</li> <li>4. Mouthpiece Cap</li> <li>5. Rovner Ligature (optional)</li> </ol> |
| <b>Oboes:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4 extra handmade reeds AT ALL TIMES<br/>Paul Sorten (740) 587-1603</li> <li>2. Reed case that holds 4 reeds</li> <li>3. Cork Grease, Silk Swab and Water Container to wet reeds (35mm film canister works well)</li> </ol>   | <b>Bassoons:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4 extra handmade reeds AT ALL TIMES</li> <li>2. Reed case that holds 4 reeds</li> <li>3. Cleaning swab</li> <li>4. Seat Strap, Crutch, Silk Swab and Paraffin</li> <li>5. Water Container to wet reeds</li> </ol>               |
| <b>French Horns:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One bottle of Rotary Valve Oil by Hetman</li> <li>2. Tuning Slide Grease</li> <li>7. Polishing Cloth</li> <li>3. Mouthpiece brush</li> <li>4. Cleaning Snake</li> </ol>   | <b>Flutes:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Flute tuning rod (should come with instrument)</li> <li>2. Flute Swab</li> <li>3. Polishing Cloth</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Saxophones:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4 extra reeds AT ALL TIMES Rico or Hemke 2 or medium soft strength)</li> <li>2. Reed case that holds 4 reeds</li> <li>3. Cork grease</li> <li>4. Sax swab</li> <li>5. Rovner Ligature (optional)</li> <li>6. Polishing Cloth</li> </ol>                                   | <b>Trumpets, Baritones and Tubas:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bottle of Al Cass Brand Piston Valve Oil</li> <li>2. Tuning Slide Grease</li> <li>3. Polishing Cloth</li> <li>4. Mouthpiece brush</li> <li>5. Cleaning Snake</li> </ol>                                    |
| <b>Percussion:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 NOT be necessary for you to purchase a snare drum for your child.</li> <li>2. Stick Bag (optional)</li> </ol> |  |

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:sales@chucklevins.com)  
<http://www.wmcworld.com>

### **Mike's Music**

4872 Montgomery Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
Phone: (410) 465-0700  
<http://www.mikesmusicmd.com/>

### **Music and Arts Centers**

Chatham Station – Ellicott City  
9210 Baltimore National Pike, Rt. 40 West  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
Phone: (410) 461-1844

### **Cherry Tree Center – Laurel**

11200 Scaggsville Rd Unit 111  
Laurel, MD 20723  
Phone: (240) 568-0600

### **Music and Arts Express – Columbia Crossing**

6131 Columbia Crossing Drive  
Columbia, MD 21045  
Phone: (240)409-5486  
<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](mailto:stusmusic@stusmusic.com)  
<http://www.stusmusic.com>

### **Wood Bridge Music Company**

5809 Clarksville Square Dr., Suite 103  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
Phone: (443) 535-9677  
<http://www.woodbridgemusic.com>