

## West Friendship Elementary School Band Testimonials

*Below are just a few testimonials from former members and parents of the WFES Band program so you can have more insight into what your child will experience as a member of the WFES Band.*

"My son is now 20 years old and plays the euphonium in the University Band at the University of Maryland, College Park. He got his start with Mrs. Syversen at WFES. Participating in the band has been a fun, low-stress activity which provided him the opportunity to learn to read music, learn to play an instrument, cultivated his love of music, exposed him to lots of nice kids and gave him the opportunity to go on many fun field trips! You do not need to be a high level musician to get a lot out of band. As I have seen with my son, you just need to participate. As a sophomore engineering student at UMD, he is thankful to have a low-stress, 2 credit class that gives him a break from his very hard coursework, and gives him the opportunity to continue playing his instrument. There is no downside!"

-Christina Skopic (Ben Skopic's Mom)

"My son has truly gained an appreciation for all types of music and musical instruments, and it all began with Mrs. Syversen's band program at WFES. Daniel enjoyed participating in band more than I ever imagined he would, and the experience prepared him well for band at middle school. I would highly recommend band at WFES for any student - it is a fun, special and rewarding experience!" -Jackie Tuma (Daniel Tuma's Mom)

"I want you to know what an amazing positive influence and bright spot you have been for Tyler this year. We are so happy he tried band and tapped into his love of music." -Kim McGill (Tyler McGill's Mom)

"Band was an amazing opportunity for our son as a new fifth grade student to WFES this fall. Mrs. Syversen is a wonderful inspiration and encouraging every step of the way. Band became his favorite subject right away. As Ryan says, "Band is fun. Do it! You won't ever regret it!"

-Shana Hamilton (Ryan Hamilton's Mom)

"Band isn't simply just playing an instrument, to me, band is learning the ability to become aware of yourself and others around you. Band has been something that I can use to relax, have fun, and test myself. Not only has it become part of my schedule, practicing is part of my daily routine."

-Kevin Liu

"As parents of a high school freshman, senior and college sophomore we simply cannot recommend the music program highly enough. All three kids were incredibly fortunate to have Ms. Syversen to start them off on their instruments in elementary school. And now as they are older and looking back, my two oldest would say with out hesitation that being involved in the Marriotts Ridge music program was a true highlight of their high school years. My freshman just starting out in high school said to me not long ago that she is so grateful she was in band this year. Our kids have loved being able to get to know students of different ages and overlap with their siblings. The band program allows you to be just as involved as your student wishes. There are opportunities for marching band, jazz, GT, All State, and pitt band. Even if a student chooses not to do anything "extra" band is a chance to have your brain work in a different way than all the book work, a chance to be part of a bigger group working together for excellence, and a chance to visit some cool places on spring trip. The band kids are some of the nicest kids in the school (from an admittedly biased parent) and all of my kids made great friendships there. The band parents get to know each other, too, and it's a fantastic way to get involved. Band has been a wonderful place for our kids all the way up through elementary, middle, and high school, and in high school all the hard work really starts to pay off. If you are wavering, hang in there, you won't be sorry!

Mrs. Syversen is the most caring and nurturing teacher a young music student could have. Music can be very discouraging early on, with the hours of practice and discipline required to improve. It is quite easy to get discouraged. Miss Syversen never let the kids get down on themselves, leading to a solid foundation upon which to build. The biggest advantage to having a music background is when you reach high school. Immediately you have upperclassman as your friends and colleagues. All of our children really enjoyed the social nature of high school with the close bonds formed in their freshman year with students of all ages."

-Robert and Carole Degenford (Hannah, Daniel and Elisabeth's parents)