

West Friendship Elementary School

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

**REGISTRATION DUE BY
September 14th**

Go to www.amybejm.com to
Register Online!



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. If your son or daughter was in Beginning Band last year, he or she is automatically a member this year of the Advanced Band! All you need to do is register them online. 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 CDs 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 classes per week (and three classes per week one week each month for chamber ensembles) but because band will be taught on a rotating schedule, students will only miss the same class/time slot every few weeks or so. One class 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 he or she wants to continue in band, I ask that he or she at least attend two weeks of sessions to remember the excitement and fun that comes from being in the band.

A schedule of specific class times will be distributed as soon as possible. This schedule will also be available online at www.amybejm.com.

To register for band this year, **I ask that you complete the online band registration form by September 14th**. To register for band, go to www.amybejm.com, click on the WFES band button on the right and click on the first link on that page to register!

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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 *Alfred’s Drum Method - Book 1*)
- All accessories listed in the Band Handbook 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 on the Howard County Parents for Music Education (HCPSM) website.

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 15-20 minutes five days a week!

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time!! My email address is amy_syversen@hcps.org or you can leave a message for me at WFES at 410-313-5512. 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.

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WFES Band Required Materials

The following is a list of **required** materials for band. You may want to rent or lease your child's selected instrument from a local music store. *Please do not purchase an instrument online without speaking with Mrs. Syversen first! Do not purchase the cleaning kits from the stores, you only need the items below.*

The following is a list of the required accessories you will need to succeed:

All Students:

1. Wire Music Stand (*for home use, do not bring to school*) – this helps promote good posture
2. Instrument in good playing condition
3. Metronome (*for home use, do not bring to school*)
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. 3-ring binder (required) and packet of sheet protectors for binder (optional)
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

<p>Trombones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bottle of Slide-O-Mix (do not use slide oil!) 2. Tuning Slide Grease 3. Small Water Spray bottle or "Bone" bottle 4. Polishing Cloth and Microfiber Cloth 5. Mouthpiece brush (for home) 6. Cleaning Snake (for home) 7. Cleaning Rod and Paper Towels (for home) 	<p>Trumpets, Euphoniums and Tubas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bottle of Hetman Classic Piston Oil (Rotor Tubas need - Hetman Rotor Oil and Hetman Bearing Oil) 2. Hetman Tuning Slide Oil 3. Polishing Cloth and Microfiber Cloth 4. Mouthpiece brush (for home) 5. Cleaning Snake (for home) 6. <i>Tubas Only</i> – Baltimore Brass or DEG Tuba Rest (for home)
<p>Oboes:</p> <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 and Water Container to wet reeds 	<p>Bassoons:</p> <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 5. Water Container to wet reeds
<p>French Horns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One bottle of Rotary Valve Oil by Hetman 2. Hetman Tuning Slide Oil 3. Hetman Bearing Oil 4. Polishing Cloth and Microfiber Cloth 5. Mouthpiece brush (for home) 6. Cleaning Snake (for home) 	<p>Flutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flute tuning rod (should come with instrument) 2. Flute Swab (cloth for tuning rod) 3. Polishing Cloth 4. Bo Pep Flute Finger Saddle 5. Bo Pep Thumb Rest (Optional) 6. Pipe Cleaner(s) (keep one in case)
<p>Saxophones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 Legere Signature Series 2.25 strength reed and a reed case for 2 reeds (be careful not to break it!) 2. Mouthpiece Cap 3. Cork grease 4. Body Swab, Neck Swab, Mouthpiece Brush (brush for home) 5. Polishing Cloth and Pipe Cleaner(s) (Keep one in case) 6. Vandoren VMCX6 THICK mouthpiece cushion (<i>Mrs. S will apply</i>) 7. Rovner Light (H) Ligature (optional, but worth it!) 8. JD Hite Premiere Mouthpiece (optional, but worth it!) 	<p>Clarinets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 Legere Signature Series 2.25 strength reed and a reed case for 2 reeds (be careful not to break it!) 2. Mouthpiece Cap 3. Cork grease 4. Clarinet Swab, Mouthpiece Brush (brush for home) 5. Vandoren VMCX6 THICK mouthpiece cushion 6. Thumb Rest Cushion and Clarinet Neck Strap 7. Rovner Light (H) Ligature (optional, but worth it!) 8. JD Hite Premiere OR Mezzo JN Gennusa Mouthpiece (optional, but worth it!) 9. Q-Tips and Pipe Cleaner(s) (keep a few in your case)
<p>Percussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percussion Kit that includes: Vic Firth SD1 General drum sticks, Vic Firth M132 mallets, an 8" tunable practice pad, practice pad/bell stand, and a set of bells. *NOTE: It is NOT necessary for you to purchase a snare drum. 2. "Alfred's Drum Method Book 1" (in addition to book above) 3. "A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion" by Mark Wessells (in addition to the book above) 	