

## West Friendship Elementary School

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

**REGISTRATION DUE BY  
September 14th**

Go to [www.amybejm.com](http://www.amybejm.com) to  
Register Online!

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Hello! My name is Amy Syversen and I am honored to be the band director at West Friendship Elementary School. As a fourth grader, your child finally has the opportunity to do what so many successful students have done before them, be part of the band! We know that for many of you, this will be your first exposure to music education and I wanted to take a brief minute to share some information with you.

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 designed to help them 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 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	Oboe (private lessons encouraged)
Trumpet	Tuba	Saxophone	Bassoon (private lessons encouraged)
Clarinet	Euphonium		French Horn (private lessons encouraged)

These instruments can all be rented or purchased at local music stores. Larger instruments such as Tuba, Euphonium and French Horn may be available to borrow from our school free of charge. We do not have an oboe or bassoon, so if you would like to play these instruments, I will try to locate them to borrow from other schools. *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 two choices. In order to maintain small class sizes and proper band balance, not every student will get his or her 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 he or she has 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 two band classes 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 his or her 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 you complete the online band registration form by Friday, September 14th.** To register for band, go to [www.amybejm.com](http://www.amybejm.com), click on the WFES join band button on that page to register.

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time!! My email address is [amy\\_syversen@hcpss.org](mailto:amy_syversen@hcpss.org) or you can leave a message for me at WFES at 410-313-5512.

Musically Yours,  
Amy Syversen, Band Director



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

## 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)