

## West Friendship Elementary School Music Department

**COURSE** Elementary Band, Grades 4 and 5

**INSTRUCTOR** Amy Syversen  
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**WEBSITE** [www.amybejm.com](http://www.amybejm.com) and your Canvas band course page

### Course Description

The West Friendship Elementary School Beginning and Advanced Bands provide a performance-based curriculum for advanced level learners, focusing on the development of expressive and artistic musical experiences through student driven work. It is important to note that we will not merely be playing instruments in this course, but rather learning the language of music *through* performance. As such, a significant portion of your work in this course will be devoted to refining your performance skills, increasing your ability to read new music at sight, and exploring what it means to be an all-encompassing musician.

### 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!* Cleaning kits from the stores are not necessary, 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

#### **Trombones:**

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 and Cleaning Snake (for home)
6. Cleaning Rod and Paper Towels (for home)
7. Optional (but fun!) Kelly 6 ½ AL Small-shank Trombone/Baritone Lexan Mouthpiece in the color of your choice! <https://kellymouthpieces.com/kmtrombonesmall>

#### **Trumpets, Euphoniums and Tubas:**

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 and Cleaning Snake (for home)
5. Tubas Only – Baltimore Brass Tuba rest
6. Tubas Only – Kellyberg mouthpiece in the color of your choice! <https://kellymouthpieces.com/kmtuba>
7. Euphoniums Only - KELLY – 51D Large-shank Trombone/Baritone Lexan Mouthpiece in the color of your choice!  
<https://www.kellymouthpieces.com/kmtrombonelarge>

<b>Oboes:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four extra handmade reeds AT ALL TIMES from <a href="http://www.reedmaker.com">www.reedmaker.com</a></li> <li>Reed case that holds four reeds</li> <li>Cork Grease and Silk Swab</li> <li>Optional – water container for reeds</li> </ol>	<b>Bassoons:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four extra handmade reeds AT ALL TIMES</li> <li>Reed case that holds four reeds</li> <li>Cleaning swab and bocal brush</li> <li>Seat Strap, Crutch, Silk Swab and Paraffin/Cork grease</li> <li>Optional – water container for reeds</li> </ol>
<b>French Horns:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One bottle of Rotary Valve Oil by Hetman</li> <li>Hetman Tuning Slide Oil</li> <li>Hetman Bearing Oil</li> <li>Polishing Cloth and Microfiber Cloth</li> <li>Mouthpiece brush and Cleaning Snake (for home)</li> </ol>	<b>Flutes:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flute tuning rod (should come with instrument)</li> <li>Flute Swab (cloth for tuning rod) and Polishing Cloth</li> <li>Bo Pep Flute Finger Saddle and</li> <li>Bo Pep Thumb Rest (Optional)</li> <li>Pipe Cleaner(s) (keep one in case)</li> </ol>
<b>Saxophones:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Legere Signature Series 2.25 strength reed and a reed case for two reeds (be careful not to break it!)</li> <li>Mouthpiece Cap</li> <li>Cork grease</li> <li>Body Swab, Neck Swab, Mouthpiece Brush (brush for home)</li> <li>Polishing Cloth and Pipe Cleaner(s) (for case)</li> <li>Vandoren VMCX6 THICK mouthpiece cushion (Mrs. S will apply)</li> <li>Rovner Light (H) Ligature (optional, but worth it!)</li> <li>JD Hite Premiere Mouthpiece (optional, but worth it!)</li> </ol>	<b>Clarinets:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Legere Signature Series 2.25 strength reed and a reed case for two reeds (be careful not to break it!)</li> <li>Mouthpiece Cap</li> <li>Cork grease and Q tips (keep a few in your case)</li> <li>Clarinet Swab and Mouthpiece Brush (brush for home)</li> <li>Vandoren VMCX6 THICK mouthpiece cushion</li> <li>Thumb Rest Cushion and Clarinet Neck Strap</li> <li>Rovner Light (H) Ligature (optional, but worth it!)</li> <li>JD Hite Premiere OR Mezzo JN Gennusa Mouthpiece (optional, but worth it!)</li> </ol>
<b>Percussion:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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>“Alfred’s Drum Method Book 1” (in addition to books above)</li> <li>“A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion” by Mark Wessells (in addition to the books above)</li> </ol>	

## REQUIRED AFTER-SCHOOL PERFORMANCES:

Refer to HCPSS Policy 8090 Non School Hour Curricular Programs

Please see your child’s band Canvas course page for a list of performance dates. We will have two required concerts each year during non school hours, a winter concert in January, and a spring concert in May or June.

### Grading

Grading categories from the HCPSS Music Grading Standards are weighted as follows:

HCPSS Music Grading Standards	Grade Weight
<p><b><i>Mus s1: Creativity &amp; Composition</i></b></p> <p>Develops and applies strategies to generate and express a variety of musical ideas.</p>	10%
<p><b><i>Mus s2: Musicianship</i></b></p> <p>Uses best practices and experiences to inform and develop an authentic voice.</p>	10%

HCPSS Music Grading Standards	Grade Weight
<p><b><i>Mus s3: Applied Skills &amp; Technical Development</i></b>            Demonstrates skills and strategies appropriate to music-making</p>	50%
<p><b><i>Mus s4: Procedures &amp; Practices</i></b>            Demonstrates appropriate musical practices in the classroom or rehearsal environment.</p>	20%
<p><b><i>Mus s5: Reflection</i></b>            Communicates an understanding of concepts and strategies through the evaluation of music.</p>	10%

***Creativity and Composition - 10%***

Students will complete composition assignments to further their understanding of music theory and creative processes.

***Musicianship - 10%***

Students will complete assignments that explore musical works performed in the class to further their understanding of performance practice. Assignments will include listening to personal, ensemble, and professional recordings and researching musical works to understand cultural and historical context.

***Applied Skills & Technical Development - 50%***

Every student will receive graded performance assessments and skills tests throughout the year. These tests are video and/or audio recorded.

***Procedures and Practices - 20%***

Students are not just learning to perform on their instruments, but they are also learning to conduct themselves in a large ensemble rehearsal. This class will put the student in the role of a professional instrumental musician. As such, you will be asked to show your understanding of rehearsal and performance behavior. Students are observed and assessed on their instrumental performance and rehearsal conduct on a daily basis. This grade also encompasses students' preparation for rehearsal by having their instrument and materials as well as their participation and effort during each sectional and rehearsal.

***Reflection - 10%***

Students will receive written reflection assignments over the course of the year. Students will evaluate their performances and performances by other groups in the following categories: tone, technique, intonation, musicality, balance, interpretation, musical effect, and other factors.