West Friendship Elementary School

Band Handbook

Name:_____

Instrument: _____

West Friendship Elementary School
Band Handbook

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Introduction Letter to Parent/Guardian 2

Course Syllabus and Grading Policy 3

Student Responsibilities 5

Required Materials 6

Local Music Stores 7

Suggested Materials and Instrument Repair Contacts 8

Home Practice Tips = SUCCESS 9

Practice Steps 10

Student/Parent Contract and Commitment Statement 11

West Friendship Elementary School

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

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Hello! My name is Amy Syversen and I am honored to be the band teacher at West Friendship Elementary School. After meeting with your child 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.

Having high expectations and standards gives each student the benefit of enjoyment from their musical experiences. This handbook will explain those expectations and also the policies regarding your child's participation in the instrumental music program at West Friendship Elementary School. Please read through this handbook with your child and sign and return the last page to me. Students will be asked to keep the rest of their handbook in their band binder.

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time!! My email address is amy_syversen@hcpss.org.

Musically Yours,
Amy Syversen

West Friendship Elementary School Band

Syllabus and Grading Policy

West Friendship Elementary School Music Department

COURSE Elementary Band, Grades 4 and 5

INSTRUCTOR Amy Syversen
Amy_Syversen@hcpss.org

WEBSITE 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
See page 6

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
Mus s1: Creativity & Composition Develops and applies strategies to generate and express a variety of musical ideas.	10%
Mus s2: Musicianship Uses best practices and experiences to inform and develop an authentic voice.	10%
Mus s3: Applied Skills & Technical Development Demonstrates skills and strategies appropriate to music-making	50%
Mus s4: Procedures & Practices Demonstrates appropriate musical practices in the classroom or rehearsal environment.	20%
Mus s5: Reflection Communicates an understanding of concepts and strategies through the evaluation of music.	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.

West Friendship Elementary School Band

Student Responsibilities and Expectations

As a member of the Band you are an important part of a team. The rest of the group is relying on you to arrive prepared and on time to practice, to have a positive attitude, and to always do your best. Because lessons are during the day, you will be responsible to make up the work that you have missed in your regular fourth or fifth grade class.

Student Responsibilities

1. Be prepared – Have your music instrument, notebook, method book, and all supplies at every lesson.
2. Be on time – Know your lesson schedule. You MUST attend every lesson even if you are unprepared for class.
3. Make up your missed work – Be sure to always find out and make up what you missed at your band lesson.
4. Practice at home.
5. Take your instrument home EVERY DAY!
6. Get help if you need it and whatever you do, DON'T GIVE UP! If you have practiced and still need some extra help, I will be more than willing to work with you after school, before school, or during other scheduled times.
7. Always do your best!

Student Classroom Expectations

1. No food or drink (including gum) is allowed in the band room.
2. Please be courteous of the other students in the band program and arrive to your lesson on time and prepared to begin working.
3. Classroom instructions will be written on the blackboard for each rehearsal. Please read the board when you enter the room so you can prepare for the day's lesson.
4. Please respect the teacher and do not talk while she is talking or working with other students.
5. You will be taught basic maintenance and will be responsible for your instrument's upkeep. Keep a good supply of reeds and oil on hand to keep your instrument in good shape. Clean out your instrument at least once a month (see me if you have questions on how to do this, or pick up an instrument care sheet).
6. All students should have two pencils for their own use.
7. Use the bathroom before coming to class.
8. Remember the instrument you hold in your hands is very valuable. Please be careful in the band room and respect your classmates and their space. Instruments can break easily and aren't always easily or cheaply fixed.
9. The following behaviors will not be acceptable in the band program: dishonesty and cheating, teasing, bullying, and disruptive behaviors.
10. You will be expected to try your best 100 percent of the time.

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!*
Cleaning kids are not needed, 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. *Measures of Success: A Comprehensive Musicianship Band Method Book 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
Oboes: 1. Four extra handmade reeds AT ALL TIMES from www.reedmaker.com 2. Reed case that holds four reeds 3. Cork Grease and Silk Swab 4. Optional – water container for reeds	Bassoons: 1. Four extra handmade reeds AT ALL TIMES 2. Reed case that holds four reeds 3. Cleaning swab and bocal brush 4. Seat Strap, Crutch, Silk Swab and Paraffin/Cork grease 5. Optional – water container for reeds
French Horns: 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 and Cleaning Snake (for home)	Flutes: 1. Flute tuning rod (should come with instrument) 2. Flute Swab (cloth for tuning rod) and Polishing Cloth 3. Bo Pep Flute Finger Saddle and 4. Bo Pep Thumb Rest (Optional) 5. Pipe Cleaner(s) (keep one in case)
Saxophones: 1. One Legere Signature Series 2.25 strength reed and a reed case for two 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) (for case) 6. Vandoren VMCX6 THICK mouthpiece cushion (Mrs. S will apply 7. Rovner Light (H) Ligature (optional, but worth it!) 8. JD Hite Premiere Mouthpiece (optional, but worth it!)	Clarinets: 1. One Legere Signature Series 2.25 strength reed and a reed case for two reeds (be careful not to break it!) 2. Mouthpiece Cap 3. Cork grease and Q tips (keep a few in your case) 4. Clarinet Swab and 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!)

Percussion:

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 books above)
3. "A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion" by Mark Wessells (in addition to the books above)

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
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
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

Menchey Music (Formerly Stu's Music)
723 Baltimore Blvd.
Westminster, Maryland 21157
Phone: (410) 876-7585 or (800) 908-7585

Suggested Materials

The following materials are not required but would be beneficial and may be eventually be required in middle school and high school.

Chromatic Tuners

These are recommended for all students, except percussionists. These devices help train students to center pitches and to learn how to adjust their instruments to match pitch with everyone in the band. I recommend the Korg CA30.

Step-Up Mouthpieces

For most beginners, the mouthpiece that comes with your instrument is just fine. Clarinet, Saxophone, French Horn, and Trumpet players who have a year or more experience should consider moving up to the next level of mouthpiece. This allows for a better sound and centered pitch. Do not upgrade until you have been playing for at least one year and have spoken with Mrs. Syversen or your private instructor first. Due to physical limitations, many students do not upgrade until middle school. Here are recommended upgrades that will last up through high school:

Clarinet: Van Doran B 45 with Vandoren Rovner Light (H) Ligature
Saxophone: Selmer CHH with Rovner Light (H) Ligature
Trumpet: Bach 5C (after one or more years of playing on a 7C) and eventually Bach 3C
French Horn: Holton MDC
Trombone: Bach 6 1/2 A L (if still on a 12 student should go to a 7 next)
Euphonium: Schilke 51D
Tuba: Conn Hellenberg Standard/120

Step-Up Instruments (Do not purchase an instrument before consulting with a teacher)

Instrument Repair Contacts

Ann and Steve's Music (Woodwind Repairs)
28 Bloomsbury Ave.
Catonsville, Maryland 21228
410.747.4957 (Steve Ocone) www.annandsteves.com

Baltimore Brass Company (Brass AND Woodwind Repairs)
99 Mellor Avenue
Catonsville, Maryland 21288
410.744.1722 (David Fedderly)

Baltimore Woodwind Repair (Bassoon Repairs)
4307 Harford Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21214
410.444.6546 (Holden McAleer)

Brass Arts Unlimited (Brass Repairs)
8050B Philadelphia Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21237
410.866.1587 (David Weiner)

Daudelin Woodwind Repair (Woodwind Repairs)
6166 Downs Ridge Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075
410.799.4363 (Keith Daudelin)

Lachman Woodwind Repairs (Woodwinds Repairs)
7503 Creighton Drive
College Park, Maryland 20740
301.345-3389 or llwws@abs.net (Lee Lachman)

Music and Arts Center (All Repairs)
Chatham Station
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042
410.461.1844

Mike's Music
4872 Montgomery Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Phone: (410) 465-0700http://www.mikesmusicmd.com/

Scianella Brass Repairs (Brass Repairs)
13709 Stoner Drive
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904
301.879.3064 (David Sciannella)

West Friendship Elementary School Band

Home Practice Tips = SUCCESS

Home practice is Band's Homework. Here are some tips on how to get the most out of your home practice time:

Students (see practice steps on the next page on how to practice at home):

1. **Find a quiet, distraction-free place**.
2. **Schedule a set time to practice each day**. Just as you schedule a set time for your academic homework, you should choose a specific time each day to practice at home. Some students like to practice in the morning before school, while other students prefer to practice as soon as they get home from school. A set time (time that remains the same each day) is most helpful.
3. **Always play with correct posture.** To play with correct posture, you will need a music stand when you practice. Wire music stands are inexpensive and can be a big aid during home practice.
4. **Never start out practicing a piece up to tempo (speed)**. Always start it slow and gradually speed up to tempo until you can play the piece or section of the piece comfortably and correctly.
5. **Break it down!** Take phrases or sections of the piece you are working on and practice them at slow tempos then speed them up little by little. Next, add another phrase or chunk to the one you just worked on. Don't try to play the whole piece right away. Break the piece down and you will be much more successful.
6. **If you are stuck on a specific rhythm, put your instrument down in a safe place and clap and tap the rhythm out until you can get it**. Then add your instrument and play the rhythm. If you are still having trouble, try writing the rhythm in above the notes and using the clap and tap method once more. Clapping and tapping rhythms will do wonders!
7. **Three times is a charm**. Before moving from one phrase or section to another, be sure you can play the phrase or section correctly three times in a row; then you can move on.

Parents:

1. **Help your child schedule a daily practice time.**
2. Much like the study area a student uses for other homework, a music practice area is very important. Help your child **find a quiet distraction-free place** to practice and be sure there is good lighting and a wire music stand available for him or her to use.
3. When renting or purchasing an instrument, I would recommend brands such as Bach, Selmer and Yamaha. Please avoid purchasing instruments at local discount stores.
4. **Become involved with what your child is doing**. Listen to what he or she is playing. Ask your student for an explanation on what he or she has learned in band lessons that day. Look at his or her lesson book to make sure that what has been assigned is being practiced. Keep a steady beat for your child by clapping or encourage your child to use a metronome during home practice.
5. **Encourage your child** to always do his or her best.
6. **Praise your child** for work well done.
7. ***Never use practicing as a punishment**. Practicing should be fun!
8. **Help to foster a musical environment** in your home. Attending local concerts, listening to recordings of professional musicians, and having your child give concerts for family members and friends are all great ways to encourage your up-and-coming musician.
9. ***Help your child to persevere**. There are times when your child will feel less interested and not very motivated. This is normal. Try to withstand the tough times by reaffirming how far your child has come. Remind your child that he or she is a very important part of a team and that the rest of the band is counting on him or her to practice, attend rehearsals, etc. Treat your child to a special instrument accessory or book of popular songs that he or she can play. Learning to play an instrument requires a lot of discipline, perseverance, dedication, and determination.

West Friendship Elementary School Band

Practice Steps

Remember, practice doesn't make perfect, "Perfect Practice Makes Perfect." Please use these basic steps when practicing your instrument at home. Incorrect practice habits are harmful to a musician's progress. *You may find it helpful to place this page near or on your practice stand*.

Steps	With Pencil	With Hands	With Foot	With Mouth	Set Metronome
1. Label	Write the counts under the notes, but DO NOT write the note names				
2. Clap		Clap the rhythms of the music	Tap foot silently on every beat	Say the counts out loud	72 Beats per minute
3. Finger		Push keys/valves or move slide	Tap foot silently on every beat	Sing/say the note names out loud	60 beats per minute
4. Play		Push keys/valves or move slide	Tap foot silently on every beat	Play with correct embouchure and clear tonguing	60 beats per minute and increase to at least 72

West Friendship Elementary School Band

Contract and Commitment Statement

It is important for students and parents to understand that for West Friendship Elementary School to have a successful and high quality band program, students participating must demonstrate a high level of commitment.

I ask that the student and parent/guardian demonstrate commitment to the band program by signing the below contract.

I acknowledge that **I have read and reviewed with my child the WFES Band Handbook**. I also acknowledge that breaking this contract may result in the lowering of a grade or possible dismissal from the band program. Students are required to attend all rehearsals, concerts, and other performances. The only exceptions to this are serious illness or family emergency. **Please bring all conflicts with rehearsals to the band director's attention well ahead of time**.

In order to be a productive member of the West Friendship Elementary School Band Program I, _____ agree to:

1. Attend all required rehearsals and concerts;
2. Arrive on time and prepared to do my best;
3. Take proper care of my instrument whether it is rented or owned;
4. Practice outside of school five days a week for 15 minutes each day, fill in my practice record sheet, and turn in my practice sheet promptly on the day it is due;
5. Always have a positive attitude and work hard in both class and home practice;
6. Take responsibility for making up any class work I miss during my band lesson classes;
7. Let my parents/guardians know of all rehearsals, concerts, and other important events; and,
8. Always try my best.

Please read and sign this contract and return the bottom portion only**.** Keep the top portion for your records. *This form must be signed and returned by all students participating in band.*

✂----------

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name (please print):_____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature:_____ Date:_____

I give permission for my son or daughter's picture to be used in the classroom, band website, or on Canvas □ yes □ no

I give permission for my son/daughter's ensemble concert video to be posted on the Canvas course page □ yes □ no

I give permission for my son/daughter's picture to be used on the school's or band's Twitter account □ yes □ no