



# **Try the Instrument Night**

**Wednesday, February 7th**

**6 P.M.—8 P.M.**

**West Middle Gym**

**This night is a no-pressure  
opportunity for your child  
to try all the band  
instruments. We strongly  
encourage your child to  
attend!!!**

Welcome to 5th Grade  
Transition Night!

Did you  
know???

- The most needed instrument in our band is CLARINET!
- Band is one of the largest activities in middle and high school.
- Your student is not “too busy” to do band. Most of our band kids are involved in many other activities.
- Every year, numerous graduating seniors are receiving thousands of dollars in scholarship money!

WMS Band  
Directors:



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# Try the Instrument Night

Together we create a masterpiece.

## What is my child going to find in BAND?

They find **tolerance**.

It is not limited to the popular, the brainy, the athletic, or the exceptionally talented. Musical achievement is attained by the hard-working, the dedicated, the meticulous, the gifted, the interested, the curious, or the motivated, regardless of who else they might be.

They find **music**.

As a means of expression, an emotional outlet, a hobby or a life-long pursuit, music has a role in all of their lives. It is everywhere in our society. The more we understand it, in all its forms, the more equipped we are to become life-long educated consumers of music.

They find **continuity**.

Band is a class where they have the same teacher more than a year. In fact, sometimes they have the same director for three years.

They find **freedom**.

Most other classes don't allow for the freedom of movement tolerated in band. Playing an instrument is a physical activity. Moving air provides a rush of oxygen to their brains. Band provides a break from classes where students just sit at desks and listen, watch, write, read, etc. They seem to appreciate the change.

They find **spontaneity**.

We encourage their input on musical expression. No thoughtful suggestions are “wrong.” Students enjoy having input. They are active participants in a process which keeps evolving.

They find **emotion**.

Music must ultimately express emotion. In class they must experiment with the expression of different emotions, and come to understand why emotions are so important. Of course, we've known students who get pretty emotional over math, but that's different... :)

-excerpts taken from Sally Wagner, *Bandworld Magazine*, Vol. 16, No. 3

## Not sure???

### Come try all the beginning band instruments!

We want your child to make an informed decision! We strongly encourage you to attend our *Try the Instrument Night* at West Middle School. We will have stations set up for your child to “explore” the different beginning band instruments. Often

students want to play an instrument that does not fit their teeth structure, lip, hand and finger size, etc. Please keep an open mind regarding the instruments and make a decision after all the instruments have been tried.

**TRY THE INSTRUMENT  
NIGHT**

**Wednesday, Feb. 7th**

**6:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M.**

**WEST MIDDLE GYM**



The 8th grade band performed for the opening of the 364/Page Extension.

## Studies show...

- Nine out of ten adults and teenagers who play instruments agree that music making brings the family closer together.
- 71% of Americans surveyed by the Gallup Poll believe that teenagers who play an instrument are less likely to have disciplinary problems.
- A two-year Swiss study involving 1,200 children in 50 schools showed that students involved in the music program were better at languages, learned to read more easily, showed an improved social climate, showed more enjoyment in school, and had a lower level of stress than non-music students.
- Secondary students who participated in band or orchestra reported the lowest lifetime and current use of all substances (alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs).
- Arts involvement teaches children many skills necessary to succeed in life, including problem solving and decision making, building self-confidence and self-discipline, the ability to imagine what might be and to accept responsibility for it, teamwork, the development of informed perception, and articulating a vision.

“Band helped both of my daughters to be focused, well-rounded students. I feel band helped them make the right choices in friends and keep them focused on their grades.”

-Saxophone parent

## What are other parents saying???

“We were reluctant to commit to band initially based on our son's busy hockey and baseball schedules. However, [the] cooperation and understanding allowed [our son] to develop an interest in music that he would have not enjoyed if he had not participated. Thanks for your time with our son. We would recommend it to anyone.”

-8th grade clarinet parent

“Band has been a significant part of my daughter's Middle School experience. The joy she has sharing her bond with her classmates and teachers is evident every time we discuss her day. It is her favorite class and I think she forgets she's not only learning, but enriching herself with a life-long skill that is reading and playing music.”

-7th grade flute parent

“Where to begin!?! The band program at West Middle is amazing. The team of teachers heading that program were \*born\* for that role. My daughter comes home \*wanting\* to practice her instrument. She whips out the sheet music and starts going on about "chromatic scale" and "crescendo"... I can literally FEEL the energy from that class jump out of her...!”

-7th clarinet grade parent

He has gotten a chance to become his own person in a family like atmosphere full of great kids and two awesome teachers! He has become a more confident person!

-7th Grade percussion parent



Both of my boys are in band-6th & 8th grade. It has been so great for both of them. Going into middle school is scary, but having a group of positive role models set up before you arrive, takes the edge off the student as well as their crazy, over-protective mother! I love it! -Trumpet parent

“Band has given my son a place that he can gain confidence at his own pace and a means to display his creative side with like-minded peers. Band has given us, his parents, the peace of mind that he has found a support

system where he is not judged, but rather where he is encouraged to be himself. Tremendous leadership and moral examples have been placed in his life through band; and now that is what he desires to be like.”

-HS Tuba/7th grade Horn Parent

“Being involved in the band program has enlightened my son in countless ways. He doesn't just play one instrument, he plays 4. He's disciplined to practice, eager to learn and looks forward to the band programs at West HS. I'm thrilled my son wants to continue in the band program!”

-8th grade bassoon/sax parent