



**West Forsyth High School Band** - a place for EVERYONE! Get ready to make more music and fantastic memories in high school with the WEST BAND!

**Courses Offered:**

- Intermediate Band (Symphonic Band)
- Advanced Band (Wind Symphony)
- Mastery Band (Wind Ensemble)
- Beginning Instrumental (Intro Percussion Ensemble)
- Intermediate Instrumental (Symphonic Percussion)
- Advanced Instrumental 1 (Wind Sym Percussion)
- Advanced Instrumental 2 (Wind Ensemble Perc)
- Beginning Orchestra
- Advanced Orchestra
- Music Technology

To enroll in a BAND or PERCUSSION class you need to have:

- 3 years of Middle School Band experience (or equivalent)
- We will ask for a recommendation from your current middle school director

There is no prerequisite for Beginning Orchestra or Music Technology.

**THE AWARD-WINNING “Pride of the West” MARCHING BAND**



- **Scan QR to complete the online application**
- Wind & Percussion students must be enrolled in a band/percussion class
- Spring Auditions for Percussion & Colorguard - TBA
- Spring Training Camp May 8-10, 5-7:30PM
- Marching Band is extra-curricular and takes place outside the school day
- Rehearsals each week, usually on Tues and Thurs 4-7PM from August - October, with sectional practices on Mondays 4-6PM
- 1 ½ weeks of summer band camp is required to participate, July 10-19
- Percussion & Colorguard have additional practices in summer that are required (dates TBA)
- Saturdays in the month of October are reserved for travel to competitions - we call this “Bandtober” for a reason!
- travel to all away football games
- perform at all home football games
- perform at special events such as holiday parades on occasion
- Financial commitment is spread out over 4 payments to make it easier on family budgets
- All parents/guardians will be asked to serve in various roles with the West Forsyth Band Boosters (WFBB) in support of their child’s participation in the program.
- November 2024, the Pride of the West Marching Band will be traveling to perform in the Holiday Parade in Waikiki and at Pearl Harbor in Oahu, Hawaii. This tour is optional and not required for membership.

## The West Forsyth Concert Bands & Percussion Ensembles

- **Symphonic Band (Intermediate Band)** - about 90% of incoming freshmen are placed in Symphonic Band. 8th graders will be given the opportunity to audition into a higher level band this spring. Symphonic Band meets as part of the regular class schedule at WFHS. Students in this ensemble perform 5 home concerts throughout the school year, attend our symphonic camp and perform at LGPE (Large Group Performance Evaluation) in March. Students in the Symphonic Band are encouraged to audition for All-State and District Honor Band in December. At the end of the first year students will audition for placement in either the Wind Symphony or Wind Ensemble the next year. Private lessons are recommended. Grades are determined by rubrics for ensemble skills, along with periodic formative and summative assessments.
- **Wind Symphony (Advanced Band)** - Wind Symphony meets as a part of the regular class schedule at WFHS. Students are asked to maintain a high level of preparation, usually performing music at the medium to medium advanced level. Students in this ensemble perform 5 home concerts per year, attend Sym Camp and LGPE. Students are encouraged to audition for All-State and District Honor Band. Private lessons are recommended. Grades are determined by rubrics for ensemble skills, along with periodic formative and summative assessments.
- **Wind Ensemble (Mastery Band)** - Wind Ensemble is the highest level concert ensemble at WFHS. This ensemble requires a high level of preparation in order to perform music at the advanced to collegiate level. Wind Ensemble will perform 5 home concerts per year, participate in Sym Camp and perform at LGPE. Wind Ensemble usually travels (sometimes overnight) to perform at a prestigious college/university invitational in the spring representing the best of West Forsyth Bands at both the regional and national level. Students are required to audition for All-State and District Honor Band in December. Private study with a local professional is strongly recommended.
- **Percussion Ensembles (Beginning/Intermediate/Advanced)** - All percussion students at West will be enrolled in one of the 3 levels of percussion study, based on director recommendation and audition. Students will prepare music to perform with all concert bands, large percussion ensembles and performing as small groups. Students will be exposed to techniques needed to play a variety of music styles including rudimental snare to keyboards, timpani and hand drumming. In addition to our home concerts and LGPE with the concert bands, West Percussion Ensembles will perform at a regional festival such as the Southeastern Percussion Festival.

## West Forsyth Orchestras

- **Philharmonic Orchestra (Beginning Orchestra)** - Philharmonic Orchestra is a class open to any student wanting to begin their study of an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass). No prior experience is necessary. Students will be taught basic string instrument technique, rudiments of music theory and note/rhythm reading skills to be able to perform as an ensemble. Philharmonic Orchestra meets as part of the regular class schedule at WFHS. Students in this ensemble perform 5 home concerts throughout the school year. Information about instrument rentals will be available at the beginning of the school year. Private lessons are recommended. Grades are determined by rubrics for ensemble skills, along with periodic formative and summative assessments.

- **Symphonic Orchestra (Advanced Orchestra)** -Symphonic Orchestra meets as a part of the regular class schedule at WFHS. Students are asked to maintain a high level of preparation, usually performing music at the medium to medium advanced level. Students in this ensemble perform 5 home concerts per year and perform at District LGPE. Students are encouraged to audition for All-State and District Honor Orchestra. Private lessons are recommended. Grades are determined by rubrics for ensemble skills, along with periodic formative and summative assessments.
- **Music Technology**- Music Technology explores the production and creation of modern music. We use a multitude of softwares to produce music and record live music. Students learn how to edit the sounds and turn them into fully produced music. The class takes place in an iMac lab on campus and all the tools are available in the class.

### **Additional Performance Groups at West Forsyth**

**Jazz Band** - students are selected by audition for the West Forsyth Jazz Band. It is open to current students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, drum set, percussion, electric bass, guitar, piano. West Jazz Band rehearses once a week December through May and performs at home concerts, community events and District Jazz LGPE in May.

**Winterguard** - West Forsyth Winterguard is open to all students at WFHS and our feeder middle schools with both a JV and Varsity team that travel and compete at local circuit and regional events. This competitive travel team practices and competes in season from November-March (some years into early April). Auditions are held each November. Additional financial commitment is required to participate.

**Indoor Percussion** - West Forsyth Indoor Percussion is a competitive travel team whose season of practices and shows is November to March. Auditions are held in November and membership is open to all current marching band members. If you're not familiar with Indoor Percussion the show is similar to a marching band but with no winds or guard inside on a gym floor. It offers an exciting opportunity for wind players who would like to learn a percussion instrument to continue participating in a competitive show environment after the marching season ends.

**District Honor Band & All State** - band students are encouraged to audition each December for All-State and District Honor Bands (required for Wind Ensemble). All-State auditions are very competitive across Georgia and parents are encouraged to provide private lessons for students to prepare for auditions. A contact list for private teachers will be available or check with our local music stores such as Ponce de Leon Music or Music & Arts.

Please reach out with questions! [dclupper@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:dclupper@forsyth.k12.ga.us) OR [ntucker@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:ntucker@forsyth.k12.ga.us)

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