

WMS BANDS - SPECIAL WORKSHOPS

For the weeks of
January 30, February 6, February 13, February 27

Pick a workshop that looks interesting to you (see the descriptions below). Everyone should come to two during the three & a half weeks. You may come to more if you can work it into your schedule (counts as enrichment).

Sign up on the signup sheets - some have limited enrollment. Take a sticky and write down what you signed up for and put it in your planner. Be sure to sign in when you come to the workshop so you get credit for being there!

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SCIENCE OF SOUND: Ever wonder why we can hear things and how sound works?? We will learn about how different percussion instruments work and get into the insides of a piano, we will learn about how sound gets from the instrument to your brain, and explore some of the mathematical properties of sound (cycles per second is how fast a string -or column of air- vibrates and every time you go up an octave, the cps doubles!).

Tues., Feb. 7 -- after school 3:30-4:30 (note later time)

Fri., Feb. 10 (B) -- 6-green, 7/8-yellow (block 6)

TRY AN INSTRUMENT: Sign up with a friend and spend the period learning a bit about how to play each other's instrument. (This is not a drop in; you must sign up with a partner)

Tues., Jan. 31 (E) -- 6-yellow, 7/8-green (block 2)

Wed., Feb. 1 (A) - 6/7/8 purple (block 6)

Thurs., Feb. 2 (B) -- 6-green, 7/8-red (block 3)

Tues., Feb. 7 (E) -- 6-red, 7/8-yellow (block 1)

Tues., Feb. 7 (E) -- 7/8-blue (block 4)

Thurs., Feb. 9 (B) - Grd 6 orange (block 4)

Fri., Feb. 10 (C) - Grd 8 orange (block 4)

Mon., Feb. 13 (D) - 6 red, 7 orange (block 5)

Fri., Feb. 17 - after school 2:30-3:15

Mon., Feb. 27 (C) - 6/7/8 black (block 3)

ADVANCED TRANSPOSITION: So you're a clarinetist and someone hands you an alto sax part and tells you to play it. What do you do? You've found a string quartet that you want to arrange for trumpets, horn, and euphonium. Where do you start? Learn how to write out transpositions, and how to play some right off the page without having to rewrite them.

Sign up for any of the "Try an Instrument" periods, but next to your name, put "Advanced Transposition". No partner needed.

BEGINNING CONDUCTING: Learn a bit about score reading and how to wave your hands around appropriately and to start and stop the group. Students who take Latin and are thinking they would like to conduct the band at the Latin Banquet should try to attend this workshop.

Tues., Jan 31 (E) -7/8 Blue (block 4)

Thurs., Feb 2, after school 2:30-3:15

SCORE READING & TRANSPOSITION - MORE ADVANCED CONDUCTING: You've done a little bit of conducting, but need to know more about those notes on the page and how to do more advanced moves, like cues and changes.

Tues., Feb. 14 (E) -7/8 Blue (block 4)

**or see me for some private instruction,
if we can find a common time**

ENSEMBLES: An "ensemble" is a small group of musicians playing together -- it can be a duet (2), trio (3), quartet (4), quintet (5) or a "small ensemble" (any number). Get a group of your friends and sign up together as an ensemble and I will find music for you to play together, or just come and we'll put you in a mixed group. If you & your friends already have music, bring it along and you can work on it (you can bring friends who are not currently in band). We only have spaces for a few groups. One space will be reserved for a miscellaneous group that we will make up on the spot.

Tues., Feb. 7 (E) - 6/7/8 Black (block 6)

Thurs., Feb. 9 (B) 6 green, 7/8 red (block 3)

Thurs., Feb. 9 - after school 3:30-4:15

Fri., Feb. 17 (C) - Grd 8 orange (block 5)

Fri., Feb. 17 (C) - Grd 6 orange (block 4)

Mon., Feb. 27 (C) - Grd orange (block 5)

HOW DOES THIS INSTRUMENT WORK?? (woodwinds & brass): So you blow into your instrument, but do you know how it really makes a sound? How come the sound gets lower when you put down more fingers on a woodwind instrument? Did you know a trumpet and a trombone are actually pretty similar? We will look at different kinds of instruments and learn the science behind their sound.

Wed., Feb 1 (A) -- 6/7/8 red (block 1)

Mon., Feb 13 (D) - 6 yellow, 7/8 green (block 1)

EARLY INSTRUMENTS: Have you ever heard of these instruments: a crumhorn or a serpent or a sacbut or a shawm or a zink? All of these are instruments from the renaissance. You know about saxophones, but did you know there were saxhorns, invented by the same person (Adolf Sax). What are all of the ropes all over the drums used during the revolutionary war? Come see some of the old instruments and look at some pictures of others and hear some sound files.

Tue., Feb 14 (E) -- 6-yellow, 7/8-green (block 3)

Tues., Feb. 14 (E) -- 6/7/8 black (block 6)

THE HISTORY OF RECORDING: People have not always been able to flick a switch and hear music from a machine! How did it get started??? We will go back to Edison's invention and learn about early recording machines and bring the technology up to the present with CDs and MP3s

Wed., Feb. 1 (A) -- 6-orange, 7/8-yellow (block 3)

PDQ BACH: It is a well-known fact that Johann Sebastian Bach had 20 children, but who is this PDQ Bach who claims to be JS Bach's 21st child??? Come learn a bit about one of the biggest musical jokes ever created! A wonderful composer, by the name of Peter Schickele, created PDQ Bach and invented instruments for his music (double reed slide music stand, a bicycle with balloons and a tromboon, to name just a few). Mr. Schickele dresses up as PDQ Bach and does concerts around the world of this spoof music. He has over 20 albums of PDQ Bach music which include such works as, "Grand Serenade for an Awful Lot of Winds and Percussion", "The Short-Tempered Clavier" (based on JS Bach's work, "The Well-Tempered Clavier"), "A Little Nightmare Music" (based on Mozart's "A Little Night Music". Wonderful, silly fun! The more you know about music, the funnier it is!

Mon., Feb 6 (D) -- 6/7/8 purple (block 3)

Thurs., Feb 2 - 6 red, 7/8 blue (block 6)

Fri., Feb. 10 -- after school 2:30-3:30

DIGITAL MUSIC EDITING: Have you ever wanted to change a song? Cut out that weird annoying sounding part? Ever wanted to play the White Album backwards and find out if Paul really is dead? In this workshop you will get an introduction to editing and changing songs with a free computer program called "Audacity". With Audacity there isn't much that you can't do to a song! Change the speed, the key, the order (ex: ABBA to ABAB), make it louder or softer, even make the singers sound like the "smurfs" etc. With Audacity, you become the Sound Tech, the DJ, and the arranger! (Bring a favorite CD)

Mon., Feb. 6 (D) - Grd 7 orange (block 5)

Mon., Feb. 6 (D) - 6 yellow, 7/8 green (block 1)

Wed., Feb. 8 (A) - 6/7/8 red (block 1)

Wed., Feb. 8 (A) - 6 orange, 7/8 yellow (block 3)

Wed., Feb. 8 (A) - 6/7/8 purple (block 6)

Fri., Feb. 10 (C) -- 6/7/8 black (block 3)

Fri., Feb. 10 (C) - Grd 8 orange (block 4)

GUITAR BASICS: Curious about whether or not you could play guitar? Always wanted to play, but never had the opportunity to try? Come check it out! We will do basics and have you playing at least a little bit by the end!

(Taught by Libby Camp & Mia Narciso)

Thurs., Feb. 9 (D) - After School, 2:30 to 3:15 in the orchestra room