

2017 Florida Trip Information

This is a summary of information that was presented at the parent meeting on May 10th. Parents who were unable to attend the meeting can download the information handouts from the Charms website.

Trip Rationale

The Darby Marching Band and Orchestra have a tradition of performing every two years at Walt Disney World in Orlando. From parent feedback it appears that there is plenty of interest, so we will continue that tradition next school year.

The Marching Band will perform in the Main Street Electrical Parade at the Magic Kingdom. This performance will be for the largest audience our students will likely see, and has always been an exciting one for both students and parents.

The Orchestra will attend an Instrumental Clinic which will give them a glimpse into the world of a professional musician. The workshop will focus on sight-reading in a studio recording setting. Students will then create a group soundtrack recording to Disney animation, in the same way professionals record movie soundtracks.

Information Downloads

Information for the trip can be found in the **2016 Florida Trip Folder** in the handouts section on Charms. Please contact Mr. Kozman or Michelle Trudeau (nugandoak@yahoo.com) if you are having trouble accessing your child's Charms account.

Incoming freshmen who were unable to attend the first round of uniform fittings may not yet have an account and should contact Michelle for set-up.

There are currently 4 downloads in the folder:

- Trip Itinerary
- Registration and Payment Information
- A list of trip inclusions.
- Application for optional trip insurance.

Trip Dates and Itinerary

The trip will occur during Spring Break of 2017. We will depart Hilliard at 4:30p on **Friday, March 17**, and return at approximately 5:30p on **Wednesday, March 22**.

The trip will be presented to the school board and should be approved at the June 14th meeting. Please remember that all plans are contingent upon board approval.

The trip itinerary can be found on Charms in the **2016 Florida Trip Folder**. It lists all activities for the entire trip. Students will be visiting Disney's Magic Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, and Epcot Center. We will also travel to Cocoa Beach for an afternoon beach barbecue and swim.

The itinerary also lists everything that is included in the price of the trip. Every effort was made to keep costs as low as possible while still creating a great experience for our students.

Travel Providers

Our trip is being arranged by **Bob Rogers Travel** (bobrogerstravel.com). This will be our second trip with the company. Bob Rogers has worked with many other Hilliard groups, as well.

The bus company is **Baron's Bus**, based in Cleveland. They have an excellent record on the US DOT website. This will be our first trip with them.

Our hotel will be the **Buena Vista Suites** in Orlando. Bob Rogers Travel has a specific contract with all the hotels they use. This provides assurance that the hotel will abide by the student friendly bylaws agreed upon between the travel company and the property.

Trip Costs

The student cost for the trip is **\$935**. The cost is broken up into 6 payments. The schedule can be found in the Registration and Payment Information download on Charms.

Registration and payments will be done through Bob Rogers Travel's online Individual Payment System (IPS). Online registration for the trip needs to be completed by **Friday, May 27**. An early registration will help us to lock-in our prices at current levels.

A **\$100 deposit** is required upon registration. The IPS will ask for a credit card number for payments. However, **no charges will be applied to credit cards until June 15th, after final school board approval.** **Students may withdraw their registration without penalty before that time.**

IMPORTANT: please see the Registration and Payment Information download for the Bob Roger's cancellation policy which will be in place after deposits are charged.

Please contact Bob Rogers if you have any questions regarding the payment schedule or IPS.

Important Note Regarding Registration

Our trip cost is currently based on 150 student and chaperone participants on 3 charter buses. The maximum number of participants for 3 buses is 168 (less 4 for directors). The trip price will drop for every 5 additional students/chaperones past 150.

In order to add a 4th bus to our trip we will need a total of 190 student/parent participants. If that number is between 168 and 190, adding a 4th bus will be cost-prohibitive. With 190 the cost of the trip

will be the same as it is with 3 buses. The price will then drop again if we pass 190. The maximum number of participants on 4 buses is 224.

Judging by the responses to the online survey and the number of chaperones who have expressed interest, we are very close to our 190 mark already. We expect to hit that figure and be able to add the fourth bus.

In the event that we do not reach 190, it may be necessary to limit the number of participants to 164 students/chaperones. We do not expect this to be necessary, but it is important for everyone to understand the possibility. If this occurs, we will apportion a set number of seats for band, orchestra, and chaperones. These will be assigned to students according to the time of registration with Bob Rogers. Any students who are not assigned a spot will have their deposit refunded.

Fundraising

Unfortunately, current IRS rules no longer allow students to raise money for individual accounts through music boosters. Boosters are looking into group fundraising projects for the trip. Any income would then be split equally among all participating students. Look for more information during the summer.

Please take a look at the Scrip program for individual fundraising opportunities. This program functions as a rebate and does meet IRS regulations. Information about Scrip can be found on Charms. Sue Atkins (svatkins@aol.com) will be coordinating Scrip for Darby and can help answer any questions.

Chaperones

We could not offer this trip to our students without the help of parents who travel with us as chaperones. Chaperones have a great opportunity to interact with the students and always have a fun time as a group. Their assistance is vital to the directors throughout the trip. Chaperone responsibilities include:

- Taking bus attendance.
- Supervising up to 3 student rooms (12 students total).
- Helping students with tickets and room keys.
- Collecting and dispensing student prescriptions.
- Helping students who do not feel well.

We aim for 1 chaperone for every 12 students. At this time we are reserving 12 spots for chaperones on our first 3 buses. Additional opportunities will be available when we are sure of adding a fourth bus. Chaperones require a HCSD volunteer badge.

Chaperone Registration and Cost

Chaperones will not register through the IPS system at this time. Instead, please contact Mr. Kozman, Mr. Riegel, or Jane Branham if interested.

Trip costs are based on room occupancy. Chaperones will have 2 to a room instead of the 4 for students. Therefore, the cost listed for chaperones is currently higher. Music Boosters are working on a plan to bring that cost more in line with the student price, however this is still in the developmental stage.

Additional Information

We will hold another parent meeting during late January or early February to cover more specific details about the trip. These details will include student behavior expectations, packing lists, meals, etc.

Staying in Florida

Students may elect to remain in Florida **(with parents, of course)** at the conclusion of the trip. The procedure for doing so will be outlined at the parent meeting noted above.

Contact Information

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