



El Dorado Springs Music Department

901 S. Grand St.
El Dorado Springs, MO
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Mr. Jordan White
Director of Bands

Ms. Bailee Fleming
Director of Choirs

January 20, 2020

Dear students and parents,

As you may know, the Music Department is in the process of planning a major Band and Choir Tour. We are applying for performances through Disney and Universal, which must occur no more than one year from the performance dates. The 2021 trip will be available to all members of the EHS Bulldog Band OR EHS Show Choir. This letter is intended to serve as an informational aid to help you decide about your student's participation with the tour, to inform you of the approximate cost, and the payment schedules.

The Bulldog Band will be featured in a parade performance in Magic Kingdom and parade through Universal Studios. There will also be performance opportunities for the Choir, but we are still exploring options for those performances.

PAYMENTS

As of this meeting, we are going on the premise that the trip will cost around \$650-\$700 per student, regardless of which ensemble the student is a part. We will not know our final amount until we have a firm number of trip participants. There will be seven total payments. Each installment will be \$100 except for the last payment, which should cover the balance. You are more than welcome to pay on time, with the correct amount, OR you can make larger payments, with the stipulation that you have the correct amount of money in your account by the due date. The Boosters, Backers, and instructors will be working to keep you informed on your student's payment status, but it is also your responsibility to know what is in your account.

All payments for this trip are expected to be made on time OR before the following due dates!
The APPROXIMATE payment schedule/deadlines will be:

February 28, 2020 - \$75 (Non-Refundable Deposit)
April 1, 2020 - \$100
May 6, 2020 - \$100
September 2, 2020 - \$150
October 1, 2020 - \$100
November 4, 2020 - \$100
December 2, 2020 – Remaining Balance (approx. \$75)

Students who choose NOT to participate in the various fundraisers throughout the year will be subject to an additional \$50 charge, per fundraiser, to help pay for their seat on the bus. The parent organizations will be paying for most of the bus but will also rely on the students' fundraising to help get the bus to Florida and back home. The Boosters & Backers will be continuing to work on ways to help fund this portion of the trip and some events may rest squarely on the parents to help pay for this great expense.

If there are no payments made by the May 1 payment deadline, or if the student is too far behind, the directors, the Boosters, or the Backers may decide that the student will not be allowed to attend the trip, as the payments would be almost too large to overcome. Any request for consideration of reimbursement of funds, contributed out of pocket, from a student's account must be submitted in writing by May 1, 2020 to the corresponding Executive Team, Band Boosters or Choir Backers. The mainly accepted form of payment would be in the form of a check, however, we are also looking into some ways to make online payments with a debit/credit card.

TRIP CONTRACT & INTENT FORM

Attached is a trip contract; please complete it and return it to us by February 28, 2020, to inform us of your student's participation. Even if your student will not be attending the trip, we need these forms back! We will be hosting an evening on **Tuesday, February 25, 2020** from **5:00-7:00 PM** to allow for parents to turn these forms into the Boosters & Backers, along with your \$75 (per person) non-refundable deposit payment. Please, sign (guardian & student) and date the appropriate location on the form.

All students who are participants in Spring activities or sports need to be reminded that the dates of this trip might coincide with games, matches, meetings, etc. Inform your coach or sponsor ahead of time if there is a conflict.

PARENT CHAPERONES & SUPPORT PARENTS

We will need some adult chaperones while we are on tour. We will be looking for 1 ADULT chaperone for approximately every 10 students. The number of students attending the trip will determine the total number of chaperones. If you wish to be a chaperone, please, fill out the chaperone segment of the contract paper. Mr. White and Ms. Fleming will compile the list of willing chaperones and will do a lottery to determine who will receive the positions of chaperone.

All adults who go with us as a chaperone must purchase a trip package and will be responsible for monitoring a group of students in addition to a variety of other duties as determined by the directors. It will be fun, **but chaperones should not think of this tour as a "vacation."** All chaperones will be expected to travel with the students and perform all chaperone duties as expected, with no variation to the performing groups' schedules. Because of these expectations, chaperones will be compensated with FREE travel to and from Florida.

Please, know that if you happen NOT to be selected for the role of a Chaperone, you are all still invited to attend the trip as a "supportive parent." Supportive parents MAY reserve a seat on the bus to travel with the group. If you are willing to help work at the various events and fundraisers throughout the year, the Executive Team may consider waiving your travel expense and grant you a seat on the bus with the group. This is will only be available based on our number of students traveling. Obviously, they will be granted first dibs on seats.

This excursion to Florida is a fantastic experience for our kids and for the Band and Choir programs! Be on the lookout for a handbook coming out before the end of the year! Thank for your interest in this "MAGICAL" trip. Feel free to contact Mr. White OR Ms. Fleming if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

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Ms. Bailey Fleming
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