West Allegheny High School

Marching Band

Educational Field Trip

to

Orlando, Florida

# February 10-15, 2012

FINAL PACKET

FINAL INFORMATION

This final information packet reflects the plans for the upcoming educational field trip by the Marching Band to participate in *Disney Performing Arts* at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida from Friday afternoon, February 10, through Wednesday evening, February 15, including three and one-half school days: **Friday afternoon, February 10; Monday, February 13;** **Tuesday, February 14**; and **Wednesday, February 15**.

Students are reminded to see teachers **BEFORE THE TRIP** to identify assignments. Complete assignments before departure if possible. Student failure to meet academic responsibilities due to or complicated by trip participation will jeopardize permission for the band to travel missing school in the future.

**INCLUSIONS:**

Round-trip chartered bus transportation from Myers Coach Lines.

3 night’s hotel accommodations: **Disney’s All-Star Music Resort**

**(407) 939-6000**

Meals to include:

5 dinners 1 en-route using cash stipends of $15/person

3 dinners using Disney Meal Cards of $15/ person

1 group dinner with fireworks viewing at EPCOT

5 lunches 1 en-route using cash stipends of $15/person

4 lunches using Disney Meal Cards of $15/ person

5 breakfasts 2 en-route using cash stipends of $15/person

2 using Disney Meal Cards of $15 / person

1 group breakfast at Disney’s Animal Kingdom

*Disney Performing Arts* festival fees & Special Four-Day Performer Admission Package

Insurance/Taxes/Gratuities on included trip features

TRIP POLICIES

The Trip is a ‘round the clock’ extension of the school day. Each Band Member must comply with standard Band, District and Board Policies as well as those stated in the *High School Student Handbook*. The discipline philosophy of the Band is one based on responsibility, integrity and respect. A significant violation of policy or procedure will be reported to building administration. Significant violation of policy or procedure could result in individual consequences ranging from detention or suspension to group sanctions upon future travel by the band as a whole.

**1.** **MEDICAL, EMERGENCY CONTACT & INSURANCE INFORMATION UPDATE**.

It is our legal responsibility to require that a current Medical and Emergency Contact Information update be submitted for a student to legally participate. COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PARENT MEETINGAND AND FROM MR. FOX. ***Current medication and specific contact information for the trip duration are particularly important.***

**2.** **INSURANCE INFO CHANGED?** Has your family’s insurance situation changed since band camp? If so, it is imperative that the current information be submitted prior to departure.

**3.** **EMERGENCY CONTACT.** The telephone number for the hotel is listed on the previous page in case emergency contact is needed from home. Phone numbers for the directors and chaperones are also attached.

**4.** **RESPONSIBILITY**. Remember that you are representing the Band, your family, the West Allegheny School District, your community and even Pittsburgh itself. Please behave accordingly.

**5.** **TRAVELING AS A GROUP.** The Band is traveling as one unified entity, a group. The reality of this context does not permit the individual choices that exist when traveling with friends or family. All students and adults within the group must compromise and be flexible for the band to travel effectively. The director is professionally responsible for the outcome and ramifications of each decision, for ‘Plan B’ changes throughout the trip, and for each student's safety and welfare from departure until return. A student who wishes not to display the flexibility needed to follow trip policies, procedures, instructions or changes through the trip should not participate.

**6. PERFORMANCE REMINDERS**

• Please note that **DISNEY WORLD PARADE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS** state that students who do not wear the standard black socks and band shoes will not be permitted to perform. Also note:

EARRING POLICY REMINDER No earrings are permitted to be worn in a marching band performance. Those students who do not remove earrings will not be permitted to perform.

JEWELRY/WATCH POLICY REMINDER. No visible rings, wrist jewelry, watch, or neck jewelry are permitted to be worn for a marching band performance. Those students who do not remove the necessary items will not be permitted to perform.

• Students who end up not being able to participate in the Disney parade due to this avoidable uniform standard will be referred to the High School administration for disciplinary action upon our return.

**7. GENERAL REMINDERS**

• Cash is the most common method students have taken funds. However, also consider Disney gift cards (available at Giant Eagle) and / or VISA gift cards.

• One of the most common questions concerns amount of spending money needed. Overall, ‘spending money’ is needed only for additional food items, although you may want to bring money for souvenirs. Use your best judgment as a family to project the amount appropriate for souvenirs at resort prices and additional snack type foods.

• Take the time at home to clean your band shoes. Dip a cotton ball in regular Vaseline and wipe onto the shoe. Buff and wipe off the excess with a terrycloth towel or other soft cloth, which will take off the dirt, keep the shoe from cracking and give them a shine.

• Be responsible for your possessions, including instruments & equipment, uniform, shoes, luggage &

carry-on items. Label possessions as appropriate.

• Be responsible to follow the itinerary, all instructions and any changes. Bring a watch or other means to be aware of the time.

• No one is to leave the group un-chaperoned at any time. When the Band is ‘together’ throughout the trip, no one is to leave the group or travel alone. Violation is a significant infraction. Carefully follow instructions pertaining to designated areas. Your safety is at risk. Tourist crime is prevalent in any resort area. Exercise due caution in all dealings with others.

• Refrain from *fooling around*, which lessens the probability of accidents, injury or property damage.

• Attendance at breakfast is required. You need the *fuel* for the active day ahead.

• Be sure someone is alert to the possibility of receiving a phone message on Wednesday, February 15, in case there is a bus breakdown or other unforeseen delay in return.

**8. BUS**

• Ride the same bus for the duration of the Trip. ONE suitcase per student will be loaded underneath the bus. LABEL it with your name and, ideally, the SCHOOL address. (205 West Allegheny Rd. Imperial, PA 15126). Be conservative in the amount of your carry-ons.

• Include personal care items (contact lens supplies, toothbrush, hair care, etc.) with your carry-on for rest stop use and breakfast stop as needed, as luggage cannot be accessed until check-in.

• Dispose of trash promptly and properly. Restrooms on the bus are for emergency use only – as ‘rest stops’ will occur every 3-4 hours, be careful concerning fluid/drinks intake of any kind during the trip and at the stops themselves.

• Temperatures can vary widely on a bus throughout such a trip, even from the front to the back. We recommend that students dress in comfortable clothes for riding and sleeping that include ‘layers’. A blanket and a pillow are also highly recommended.

• Chaperones will provide DVD’s that are appropriate for the group and will be shown on the bus.

• Only audio devices with headphones are permitted.

• Coolers of any size are not permitted due to bulk and possible spillage of melted ice (see care of bus and use of restrooms mentioned above…)

**9. HOTEL**

• Inspect your room thoroughly at check-in. Report any damage or shortages to chaperones immediately. The cost incurred for any damage that occurs in the room will be the responsibility of ALL students assigned to that room.

• Be in your assigned room at the specified time. Do not be outside your room for any reason after that time, including drink or food ‘runs’. Do not make unnecessary noise that would disturb other guests. If band staff is summoned or awakened by a chaperone or hotel personnel to deal with a ‘problem’ room, that would be defined as a *severe* violation for all members of that room to discuss with building administration upon our return.

• No males in female rooms...no females in male rooms at any time for any reason.

• Do NOT take unnecessary valuables. Don't risk loss of that valuable electronics item, class ring, other jewelry, or family heirloom. Keep all money with you.

• Organize personal belongings neatly. Sloppiness will result in items left behind, checkout process delays, and missing report time for departure with a delay for all. Note that delaying departure at final checkout is defined as a *severe* violation.

• Do not tie up telephone lines unnecessarily. Use the telephone to set up wake-up calls if desired. Do not abuse room-to-room calling. You will be charged by room for any phone bills at checkout. Note that this delays the checkout process. If noise or telephone abuse persists after being formally warned by chaperones, staff will be summoned. Phones may be removed from rooms.

**10. SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

• Alcohol and drugs are totally prohibited. Just cause will invoke a search. A violation will result in immediate parent contact and mandatory reporting to administration upon our return.

• Smoking is not permitted at any time from departure until return as this trip is an extension of the school day under District policy and PA State laws, including while in the hotel rooms in another state. A violation will also result in immediate parent contact and mandatory reporting to administration upon our return.

**11. CHAPERONES**

We are most fortunate that we have appropriate chaperones needed for this trip. As director, I must require chaperones to enforce the Trip policies and to implement instructions, the itinerary and all changes. They are required to solve minor problems and report serious concerns. Students are not to request exemptions or special privileges.

**12.** **ATTENDANCE**.

**Students must be in school on time (by 8:00 AM) on Friday, February 10,** in order to depart that afternoon as a participant. It is not appropriate to miss three days of school, then to come in late or not at all the day after returning in order to ‘rest up’. Such actions may lead the administration not to permit the band to travel again or to miss that many days, which would preclude the band ever returning to Florida.

Please be responsible and verify assignments in advance for the days missed. Many students accomplish quite a bit of homework during the long bus ride down and back. Teachers have *always* been supportive and quite pleased when band members have seen them in advance, worked ahead, and made up all missed assignments responsibly.

**13.** **LUGGAGE DROP OFF ON THURSDAY EVENING**

Luggage drop off will be available at the High School Band Room on Thursday evening (February 9)

between 8 and 9 pm.

**14.** **LUGGAGE DROP OFF ON FRIDAY MORNING BEFORE SCHOOL**

Those planning to bring luggage on Friday morning before school must bring it around to drop it off at the **cafeteria door** on the ‘side’ of the High School. Please identify yourself to the police officer directing traffic if asked. Otherwise bring it to the cafeteria door; students can bring it on around to the band room. Please do not interfere with the bus flow by pulling to the front of the school.

**15.** **MEDICAL FORMS**. Note that medical forms must be submitted to be permitted to board the bus Friday afternoon.

**16. SUNSCREEN**

***Please be sure to bring ample strength sunscreen for the duration of our time in Florida. Sunburn will make riding on the bus, sleeping and wearing your band uniform quite uncomfortable.***

**PROPOSED ITINERARY (Subject to Change)**

Friday February 10, 2012 Depart West Allegheny High School 1:30 p.m.

Saturday February 11, 2012 Arrive All-Star Resort, morning

Disney’s Hollywood Studios

Sunday February 12, 2012 Magic Kingdom

Perform in the afternoon pre-parade, ~2:30 pm

Monday February 13, 2012 First ride on *Expedition Everest*

Disney ’s Animal Kingdom

Free time at resort / Downtown Disney

Tuesday February 14, 2012 Epcot

Buffet Dinner / Private viewing of *Illuminations*

Depart for home at 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday February 15, 2012 Arrive at West Allegheny High School

(time will depend on weather and en route stops,

approximately 5 to 6 p.m. is anticipated)