



Dodgen Middle School Band

John A. Jeffres, Director of Bands
Brian Westphal, Associate Director



Disney Performance Trip: Initial Information

Dear 8th Grade Dodgen Band Parents and Students,

**PLEASE VISIT www.dodgenband.org AND COMPLETE THE
DISNEY INTENT FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**



Rationale

This performance is NOT just a one day event! This trip teaches many fundamental musical and life skills. The process will begin months in advance as the performance and logistics are meticulously prepared. Students will have added inspiration for their practice and a long-range goal to attain. It will require an added level of responsibility and accountability, as students not only prepare music, but prepare themselves and their belongings for a few days away from home. At the end of all this preparation and planning, students will be treated to three fun-filled days in Walt Disney World theme parks! This opportunity, to perform for a large audience of people from all over the globe and to represent our school through positive interactions in the parks, spreads the word about the Dodgen Middle School Band worldwide!

Logistics

All pricing has been calculated based on a minimum of 80 student participants. There are currently 100 students in the 8th grade band. Typically, a handful of students elect not to participate in this performance for various reasons but we should meet or exceed this minimum number. If we do not meet the minimum, there may be a slight increase in cost.

Tentative Itinerary

- Departure Date: Wednesday, January 29th, 1:00 PM.
- Performance Date: Friday, January 31st, (time TBA)
- Return Date: Saturday, February 1st, 11:30 PM.
- Parks to be Visited: Magic Kingdom (Thursday), Epcot (Friday), Hollywood Studios OR Animal Kingdom (TBD, Saturday)
- Other Required Dates: Thursday, January 16th - 8 AM rehearsal and 7 PM preview concert followed by mandatory informational meeting. All students and at least one parent or legal guardian must attend this meeting.

Expense Breakdown

Total trip cost: \$680, which includes:

- Motor coach transportation throughout trip. Includes parking, tolls, driver accommodations, and gratuities.
- Hotel costs for three nights, quad occupancy.
- Tickets for three days in Disney Parks in Orlando.
- Full breakfast at hotel (hot buffet) for three days.
- All meals at the parks and during the drive home. The only meal NOT covered is dinner on the way to Orlando.
- Three T-shirts to be worn during the trip: One regular spirit shirt, and two special Disney shirts.
- Cost of parent chaperones (already contacted, or pre-selected to be contacted). This trip would not be possible without parent chaperones. They will be required to maintain close supervision of students at ALL times, and will not be sitting idle or off on their own.
- Garment bag for each band uniform.
- Substitute teacher expenses.
- Luggage ID tags.
- Other miscellaneous expenses relating directly or indirectly to the trip.

Trip Insurance

Trip insurance *may* be available directly from a travel insurance company selected by our travel agent. Details will be shared as soon as they are available.

Payment Schedule

- First payment of \$350 is due between September 18 and October 4, 2019. Please do not pay before September 18, to avoid strain on our school bookkeeper!
- Final payment of \$330 is due on or before December 5, 2019.

Please make payments on or before the due date. These dates are set to insure that we can meet our obligations with the travel company. Late payments could jeopardize your child's inclusion in the trip.

Fundraising

To help defray the costs of this trip, a portion of each student's Encore Fundraiser profits may be applied toward the trip as follows: Any student involved in this trip who raises at least \$90 in **profit** from the fundraiser may apply all of the profit beyond the \$90 towards their trip costs. 40% of total fundraiser receipts is profit. For example, if a student sells \$400 worth of merchandise, the total profit generated would be \$160. \$90 of this would remain in the band's operating budget, and \$70 would apply to the student's trip. By allocating funds in this way, the band's financial needs will still be met, while giving students a chance to earn some of their trip cost. It's a win-win solution!

Behavior Considerations

It is school policy that any student that is assigned Out of School Suspension will not be permitted to participate in the trip. If a student receives three days of ISS (In School Suspension) throughout the year, they will not be permitted to participate in the trip. Other behavior issues that may be deemed problematic for the trip will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the administration.

If a student is removed from the trip due to behavior concerns, money received is not eligible for refund, since it will already be released to the travel agent and spent on trip costs.

Violation of school rules and policies while on the trip will result in appropriate action. In extreme cases, a student may have an administrative referral upon returning from the trip, or even be dismissed to their parents from the trip in progress.

Further Communication

One of the keys to this trip is communication. It will be critical that we have correct email addresses and phone numbers for all families involved in this trip. Further communication you can expect to receive includes:

- Verbal walk-through of trip procedures and policies at mandatory meeting on 1/16/20
- Room assignment list
- Group assignments for days in the parks
- Chaperone contact information
- Detailed itinerary
- Hotel information
- Packing guidelines

Intent Form

To insure that our planning is based on a good estimate of the number of participants, please fill out the Disney Intent Form on the *forms* page of www.dodgenband.org or return the paper form attached to this packet by Friday, August 30th. **We would like a response for ALL 8th grade band students, even if they do not plan to participate.** The deposit, not the intent form, reserves your spot on the trip.

The form can be found at www.dodgenband.org/forms or by scanning the code below:

Sincerely,



John A. Jeffres



Brian Westphal

Disney Performance Trip – Intent Form

Please return by Friday, August 30th, 2019 or complete the online form. It is not necessary to do both.

Student Name: _____

Do you intend for your child to participate in the Disney Performance Trip as described in this packet?

_____ Yes

_____ No

T-Shirt Size

As part of this trip, students will receive three T-shirts. Please circle the desired adult size below:

S M L XL XXL

Payment Schedule:

- First payment of \$350 is due between September 18 and October 4, 2019.
- Final payment of \$338 is due on or before December 5, 2019.

Please make payments on or before the due date. These dates are set to insure that we can meet our obligations with the travel company. Late payments could jeopardize your child's inclusion in the trip.

Signature of Parent: _____

Printed Name: _____

DODGEN STUDENT BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR FIELD TRIPS

Failure to follow guidelines and policies set by the State of Georgia Department of Education, Cobb County Public Schools, and specific behavioral rules established by Dodgen Middle School can result in the following:

- Restriction from the field trip prior to departure (payments WILL NOT be refunded)
- Restriction of activities while participating in the field trip
- Disciplinary actions while on the field trip
- While on the trip, if the student does not adhere to these policies, he/she can be dismissed from the trip at the expense of the parent/guardian

These expectations for behavior have been established to provide students and chaperones at Dodgen Middle School with an orderly, safe, and enjoyable learning experience while participating on the trip.

The Cobb County Board Policy IFCB states that:

Teachers, working with school administrators, have the authority to exclude the participation of students whose *behavioral history suggest the possibility that they may endanger themselves or others while on the field trips.*

This discretion must be made on actual student behavior and not based on disability identification.

The State of Georgia Student Discipline Code JD 160-4-8-.15 supports Dodgen Middle School's behavioral guidelines by stating:

Standards for student behavior during the school day and at school-related functions are designed to create the expectations that students will behave themselves in such a way so as to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students, respect each other and school district employees, obey student behavior policies adopted by the local board of education, and *obey student behavior rules established by individual schools.*

The Cobb County Board Policy JCDA, Section IV, Line A, Paragraph 3, supports Dodgen Middle School's Behavioral guidelines by stating:

The principal or designee may utilize any of the above discipline management techniques, and/or may employ: student participation in conference with parent/guardian, teacher, and/or principal, *restriction from school programs and special activities...* and any other disciplinary technique that positively promotes the student code of conduct and desired character trait(s).

Student restrictions from the field trip will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any student who earns OSS will NOT be permitted to participate in the trip.
- Students whose receive three days of ISS (starting on the first day of school through the date of the trip) will NOT be permitted to participate in the trip. The decision will be made by the band directors and an administrator. The decision is non-negotiable.
- Other behavior concerns will be addressed on a case by case basis, and may result in exclusion from the trip.

****If fees have been paid, some, or all of the fees will not be refundable.** Exemplary behavior is expected at school to earn a place on this optional field trip.

I understand the above guidelines and policies and agree to adhere to these policies; furthermore, I will discuss these policies with my child prior to the field trip, so that there is complete understanding of these rules and expectations as stated by Dodgen Middle School behavioral guidelines.

Parent Signature _____ Student Signature _____

Parent Name _____ Student Name _____