



Dodgen Middle School Band

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



Disney World Performance Information

January 29-February 1, 2020

Communication

In any large undertaking such as this trip, communication is essential. Here are some of the ways we plan on communicating with you.

- **Text Message.** Please sign up for text message alerts by texting the code **@dtrip2020** to the number **81010**. You will then receive notifications automatically, such as verification that we have arrived in Orlando, updates on our various activities, and notification of our precise return time
- **Chaperone Phones.** Parents will receive their chaperone's number by email a couple of days before departure. If necessary, they can use this to contact their child during the trip only.
- **Email.** If you have not received emails from me this year that means your email is out of date in our database. Please insure that we have a correct and current email address.
- **Website.** The Disney Trip section of the Band Website will be updated with current information as it becomes available. We will attempt to make updates while on the trip.
- **Paper Communication.** This packet is the main paper document you will receive from us. Any late-breaking news will be sent out by email and website.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Pre-Disney rehearsal, concert, and meeting.

Please complete the following tasks before leaving the meeting this evening:

- Turn in student's uniform in the provided garment bag.
- Complete and sign the field trip permission form
- Provide preferred contact information at your child's chaperone table
- Take any needed medication forms. Over-the-counter forms can be completed and turned in at the meeting. Prescription medication forms should be turned in along with the medication by January 22nd.

Wednesday, January 29th, Departure Day!

7:45 AM-8:30 AM, Dodgen Band Room: Luggage Drop-Off. Please use the bus entrance and pull up to the bus lot to bring luggage into the band room. Any arrivals after 8:30 will have to use the front door due to bus traffic. Under no circumstances are we allowed to block the bus lanes between 8:30 AM-9:15 AM.

For our travel day, students should wear any Dodgen spirit shirt to school (such as an Olympic shirt, a band T-shirt, etc.). The clothes worn to school on Wednesday will be worn for the bus ride. For the other days, they will be wearing Dodgen Band T-shirts they will receive especially for the trip.

Upon arrival Wednesday morning, students should take their luggage to their assigned chaperone in the Band Room. The chaperone will confirm receipt of the luggage and give the student the three T-shirts. These shirts

will be placed inside the student's luggage in the presence of the assigned chaperone. The chaperone will give each student a pre-labeled luggage tag to place on their suitcase.

Students will report to band class at 12:35 PM (beginning of 4th period) on the day of departure. We will have our final run-through before departure.

Our charter buses will arrive around 12:30. Our chaperone team and volunteers will load all luggage and instruments. Once on the bus, there will be no access to luggage or instruments in the lower storage compartment. Students must carry money on their person for the mall food court stop for dinner. We will begin loading around 1:15 PM for our 1:30 PM departure.

Students may take their school backpack on the bus to carry reading material or homework. There will be snacks and water bottles on each bus. Those students needing or wanting special snacks may bring those snacks in their backpack. **There will be an online sign up for snack and water donations on the band website.** We will be asking for mostly soft foods that do not crumble easily if dropped on the floor or stepped on. Students will place all trash in the trash bags on the bus.

Chaperones will actively monitor student conduct at all times while on the bus, at mealtimes, in the parks, and at the hotel. Students may not change seats or walk around on the bus at any time. To help maintain a safe environment, singing and loud boisterous conversation is not allowed.

Thursday-Saturday, January 30-February 1, Showtime!

On Thursday, we plan to visit the Magic Kingdom for the entire day. Friday we will go to Epcot after our performance is over. We will spend Saturday at Hollywood Studios.

The performance will be presented at 10:30 AM on Friday, January 31st, on the Waterside Stage at Disney Springs which is the largest venue in the parks! There is no admission charge, and any parents, relatives or friends in the area are welcome to attend. After our performance is complete, we will return to the warm-up area to change clothes and prepare for the rest of the day in Epcot.

While in the parks, groups must stay together at all times for the safety and supervision of every student. Chaperones will never send off a student, or a small sub-group of students on their own. Chaperones may choose to combine their full groups together if they wish. Any student(s) found in the park out of sight from their chaperone will become members of the directors' group ...eating where we choose to eat, riding on the rides we choose to ride, and basically living their life through the directors' eyes. The expectation for every student is that he/she will not leave the end of a ride, a restaurant or any other location on the trip itinerary until the chaperone has accounted for every child in the group.

Students will receive a separate \$30.00 meal card from our travel agent to use for purchasing meals Thursday and Friday in the parks. On Saturday, students will receive a meal voucher or money for lunch. Dinner will be provided during the drive back. Students may choose to bring additional money for extra snacks and/or souvenirs.

We plan to depart Hollywood Studios at approximately 3:15 PM on Saturday, February 1st. The buses will return to the bus port in the back parking lot at Dodgen at approximately 11:30 PM. We will send a text message to parents using Remind once our actual arrival time can be determined.

STUDENTS ARE TO BE PICKED UP IN THE BACK PARKING LOT. To facilitate the unloading process for the safety of all students, parents should park as far away as possible from the building around the perimeter of the bus parking lot and then walk to the canopy to meet their child. Please exit using extreme caution, as the parking lot will likely be dark and busy with pedestrian traffic. Only use the front lot if you have texted or called your child and they know exactly where you are. It is not ideal for students to walk back and forth through the parking lot in the dark.

Musical Preparation

Our performance will publicly showcase the students' mastery of the musical skills and concepts that form the Georgia instrumental music curriculum. The Marketplace Stage is Disney's largest concert venue and our Dodgen Band students will be heard by many visitors from around the world. Students must prepare their assigned music with significant home practice to bring it to the highest musical standards possible...and the sooner the better! Remember: In the Dodgen Band, early is on time!

Parents are reminded to complete ALL necessary instrument repairs **PRIOR** to our departure. There are at least two repair companies that will repair instruments on-site at Dodgen, so the student misses no rehearsal time. There will be no means available to repair instruments or purchase reeds, drumsticks, neck straps, etc. while at Disney World. All students should have an ample supply of reeds, valve oil, and any other supplies that are necessary for performance on their instrument.

Luggage

Each student will be allowed one piece of luggage comparable to an airline carryon bag that will be placed in the lower storage compartment. Band uniforms will be stored in several large wardrobe boxes in the lower storage compartment along with band instruments. Remember that each student must be able to carry and manage their own luggage as they move from the bus to their room in one trip that may involve stairs. Do not send students with large luggage that will require assistance.

Bring only good walking shoes and socks. This trip involves *extreme* amounts of walking! Students losing a flip flop or developing blisters due to inappropriate footwear will have an adverse impact on the activities of their entire group while in the park. Be considerate of others and yourself by only bringing good walking shoes.

Students are to pack light. In addition to luggage for 100 people, we must also transport a large number of band instruments (flutes, clarinets, oboes, bass clarinets, baritone saxophones, tenor saxophones, alto saxophones, trumpets, trombones, French horns, euphoniums, percussion equipment, tubas, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree). If weather reports indicate cool weather, students may wear a long sleeve shirt underneath their spirit shirts or a light jacket.

If the weather is warm, students may wear shorts or leggings in accordance with the Dodgen dress code. Shorts/skirts/dresses, regardless of gender, should be longer than mid-thigh. Leggings/jeggings/yoga pants may be worn with a shirt, dress, skirt, or shorts that are longer than mid-thigh. Our students will be representing Dodgen Middle School and their shirts will clearly identify our school and group, so the standards must be set high for their actions, attitudes, and attire.

Money

The first day, students will need around \$10.00 for their food court stop on the way to Orlando. All other meals are covered by the trip fees. Many students may want to bring extra money for additional snacks or souvenirs.

Please do not send your child with large quantities of cash. If money is lost in the park, we are unable to derail an entire group's activities to look for it.

Jewelry/Personal Appearance

Disney considers our students their cast members and in turn has a strict dress code for their performance. They specifically state that all jewelry and accessories must be uniform. Therefore, students are asked not to wear jewelry or watches during the performance. Students will be directed to leave those items in their instrument case or simply not bring them on the performance date. Our buses will be the only locked storage available during our performance. Disney also specifies that cast members should maintain a certain level and style of grooming. The required appearance is clean, natural, polished and professional. Since we are cast members for a day, please follow these guidelines.

Medications

The Cobb County School District has clear rules regarding medications. A copy of student medical forms will be kept in a notebook and will be on hand each day while in the parks. Mr. Jeffres and Mr. Westphal will be accessible via cell phone with all chaperones in the event a student needs assistance. Disney Parks also have properly staffed, well-trained clinic facilities in the case of sudden illness or injury.

Students needing to take prescription medication must turn in the "Authorization to Give Medication" form. For daily medications they will report to Mr. Jeffres or Mr. Westphal at the appropriate time each day. This is similar to the procedure students follow at school when reporting to the school nurse's office for medication. Only an official Cobb County staff member can administer medication.

For students to take over-the-counter medications, the "Authorization to Carry Over-The-Counter Medication" form is the preferred method. Parents must provide the medication and sign the form. We highly recommend the use of this form for students that often require and are accustomed to taking over-the-counter medications.

Electronics

The organizers of this trip recognize that electronic devices (such as cell phones, iPods, fit bits, etc.) may be beneficial during certain portions of this trip. Conversely, they can also become a distraction and potentially violate the privacy of others. If a student brings an electronic device on this trip, extreme responsibility, caution, and good judgment must be used at all times. With this in mind, the following guidelines will apply to any student-owned electronic devices brought on the trip:

- Electronic devices are primarily for the **long-distance bus rides** and **communication with parents**.
- Devices must be reasonably small – no large tablets or laptops.
- Absolutely **NO** use of electronic devices is allowed after lights out, and during the performance portion of our trip on Friday. They should be completely powered down and off at these times.
- If a student chooses to bring a phone or device into the parks, there is a very real risk of damage or loss. If an item is lost, trip supervisors will not assist in locating it (beyond contacting Disney Lost & Found) since that will detract from the experience of all other students in the group.
- Devices brought into the parks are for photos and parent communication only. It is not for communication with other students and there should be no posting to social media during the trip. This could cause severe distraction to students back at Dodgen as well as chorus and orchestra students involved with their own performance activities.
- We will have a group photo gallery on our password-protected photo site for students to share.

- Chaperones are not responsible for student devices. They will not be expected to hold or supervise a student's device for them at any time.
- Photos and recording are not allowed in all private areas, including student hotel rooms.
- Electronic devices shall not be used in a way that threatens, humiliates, harasses, or intimidates any other person.
- Electronic devices will not be used in a way that is distracting to others or detracts from the group experience of the trip.
- Students are prohibited from accessing, viewing, posting, forwarding, downloading or displaying any materials that are defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing and/or illegal.
- Violation of any of these policies will result in confiscation of the student's electronic device for the duration of the trip and other disciplinary action if appropriate. Trip supervisors will take reasonable measures to secure the confiscated device, but shall assume NO responsibility.
- Students will be personally and solely responsible for the security of electronic devices brought on this trip. Trip supervisors shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss or damage. If devices are loaned to and misused by non-owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation(s).

Behavior

The following behaviors will result in a parent being contacted to come pick up a student in Orlando to take them home at their expense:

- Alcohol, illegal drugs, firearms, knives, cigarettes/tobacco products of any kind.
- Obscene materials
- Stealing/shoplifting
- Fighting, bullying
- Leaving hotel without chaperone
- Visiting a room of a student of the opposite gender
- Damage of any kind for any reason to bus, hotel, sites, restaurants, etc.
- Any other infraction deemed equally serious by the supervising adults on the trip

Hotel Information

Drury Inn & Suites Orlando
 7301 West Sand Lake Road
 Orlando, FL 32819
 407-354-1101

Questions or Concerns?

Please contact Mr. Jeffres and/or Mr. Westphal as soon as possible if you have any questions or concerns about this trip. If you are uncertain about anything, it is always much better to ask us prior to departure!

Sincerely,

John A. Jeffres, Director of Bands

Brian Westphal, Associate Director

Disney Trip Packing List

(Remember: Each student may only have one suitcase, one carryon and a purse or backpack.)

- Clothes to wear both to school on Wednesday and on the bus ride down to Orlando including a Dodgen shirt
- Clothes to sleep in at the hotel
- Tennis shoes and 3+ pairs of socks
- 3 pairs of school appropriate shorts or pants
- Undergarments for 3 days
- Light jacket, rain jacket, and/or long-sleeve undershirts
- Toiletry bag with toothpaste, toothbrush, comb and deodorant (also any glasses or contact lenses)
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, etc. for sunny conditions
- Money for food court dinner on Wednesday night (~\$10) with you, not in your luggage
- Additional money for more snacks and souvenirs if desired but not necessary
- Instrument, music and all necessary supplies to perform
- If your child has dietary limitations, they may bring appropriate snacks
- If your child has turned in the over-the-counter medication form, they may bring the appropriate medication clearly labeled with their name.
- A great attitude, consideration for others, and high hopes for an amazing trip to remember for a lifetime!!!