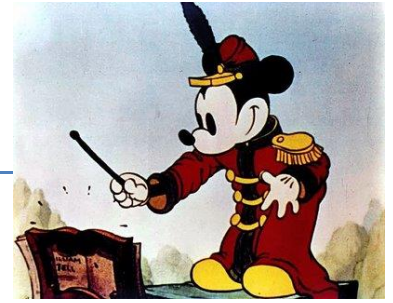




Dodgen Middle School Band

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



Disney Performance Trip: Initial Information

DISCLAIMERS

This performance trip has been approved by Disney and has verbal approval from our principal. At the time of this letter, we have submitted all paperwork but do not yet have *final* CCSD approval! The purpose of distributing this information now is so that interested families can begin planning and budgeting for the trip. You may begin to make payments on MyPaymentsPlus starting September 8th that are refundable until money is disbursed to the travel company. The travel company will offer travel insurance at a reasonable cost once the trip has received final CCSD approval. Be aware that even AFTER we gain county approval, the trip could be cancelled due to developments in the ongoing pandemic.

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. It will require an added level of responsibility and accountability as students not only prepare their musical performance, but also 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 good word about the Dodgen Middle School Band truly 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. If we do not meet the minimum, there may be a slight increase in cost.

Tentative Itinerary

- Departure Date: Wednesday, February 9th, 1:00 PM.
- Performance Date: Thursday, February 10th, (Time - TBA)
- Return Date: Saturday, February 12th, 11:30 PM.
- Parks: Epcot (Thurs), Magic Kingdom (Fri), Hollywood Studios OR Animal Kingdom (TBD, Sat)
- Other Required Dates: Thursday, January 20th - 8 AM Rehearsal AND Tuesday, January 25th 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: \$725 which includes:

- Motor coach transportation throughout trip with parking, tolls, driver expenses & gratuities.
- Hotel costs for three nights (four students to a room with two queen size beds).
- Tickets for three days in Walt Disney World theme parks in Orlando.
- Full hot buffet breakfast at hotel for the three mornings on the trip.
- All meals at the parks and on the way home. The only meal NOT covered is dinner on the way.
- Three Dodgen Band t-shirts to be worn on park days.
- Partial subsidy of 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 student's band uniform and change of clothes after the performance.
- Substitute teacher expenses.
- Luggage ID tags.
- Other miscellaneous expenses relating directly or indirectly to the trip.

Trip Insurance

Trip insurance will 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

All payments will be made through My Payments Plus. The payment will go live on Wednesday, 9/8.

- Initial Deposit of \$350 is due on or before October 20th, 2021.
- Final Payment of \$375 is due on or before December 8th, 2021.

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. If CCSD approval is not obtained, you can request a refund through My Payments Plus up until the time the money is disbursed to the travel company.

Fundraising

To help defray the costs of this trip, a portion of each student's Band 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. All cookie dough and \$22 frozen treats generate \$8.80 profit per item. All cheesecakes generate \$8 profit per item. For example, if a student sells 10 cookie doughs and 10 cheesecakes, the total profit generated would be \$168. \$90 of this would remain in the band's account and \$78 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! If the trip is cancelled after the fundraiser is done, students will not be able to be refunded any fundraiser proceeds. It will simply stay in the band account.

Behavior Considerations

It is school policy that any student that is assigned Out of School Suspension will not be permitted to participate in this trip. If a student receives three or more days of In School Suspension throughout the school 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 by administration due to behavior concerns after funds are released to the travel agent and spent on trip costs, money received is not eligible to be refunded.

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, but we do not anticipate this being an issue.

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 will include:

- Verbal walk-through of trip procedures and policies at mandatory meeting on 1/25/22
- Room assignment list
- Group assignments for park days
- 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. **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 this code.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Jeffres".

John A. Jeffres

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Westphal".

Brian Westphal

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 _____