



North Hills School District

North Hills High School

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Shaun Cloonan, director, ext. 3047

www.northhillsschoralmusic.org

Dear Choir Families,

We are excited to share with you the details of our **2017 Spring Performance Tour to Cedar Point/Rock and Roll Hall of Fame**. Your students continue to excel in rehearsals and bring pride to the community in performance. Thank you for your continued support.

Reasons we travel with our ensembles:

- *To provide educational opportunities to our students through performances & adjudications*
- *To bring recognition to our school district and music program*
- *To build a sense of community between the members of our groups*

Other considerations when planning a trip:

- *School schedule, including standardized testing*
- *Costs*
- *Adjudication schedules*

Who is invited on this trip?

All members of the Women's Choir, Symphonic Choir, and North Hills Singers. The instrumental trip is happening the same weekend in the same locations. We run "separate" trips on paper mostly due to the finances of having 2 different parent booster groups. Our goal is to allow students to perform and compete with both the instrumental and vocal ensembles. While we have a high number of students in the choirs that are also instrumental students, they typically travel on the instrumental trip and must adhere to those rules in terms of rooming/chaperones/etc. So, we usually have a smaller number on our official list traveling with us, even though all of those students also perform with us at competition. The directors will coordinate schedules and inform the students of the details to making performances.

Who chaperones the trip?

Mr. Cloonan, Mrs. Pritchard, Artistic Ambassadors tour escort Rick Sicilio, and at least one nurse chaperone. Additional chaperones come from the district-approved list. If a parent is interested in joining us as a chaperone, they must fill out all of the volunteer and clearance paperwork in the Athletic & Activities Office as soon as possible to be included on the agenda for approval at the next School Board meeting. Our trip nurse functions like the school nurse when at school, caring for ill students and administering medication.

How are the students housed in the hotels?

Students sign up for rooms in groups of four. Boys and girls are separated in the hotel and each room has a chaperone of the same gender. Girls and boys are not allowed in each other's rooms. Security is hired in the hotel to assure our students are safe and in their rooms during their stay.

What is expected of our students?

School policies apply at all times, as this is a school trip. Students are expected to learn, practice, and rehearse in a way that brings pride to our school and program. We expect our students to act respectfully and responsibly at all times and in all situations.

Calendar

A few additional after-school rehearsals for the “tour choirs” will be added to the calendar in the spring, as well as a parent meeting to finalize details/payments/forms/etc. Always check for updates on our website at www.northhillschoralmusic.org. There is a separate page dedicated specifically to this trip.

What is the cost of the trip?

If you are new to the high school music program, you may not be aware that our trips rotate in cost. This is deliberate, with the Orlando/Disney tour being the most expensive (coming in 2018).

Costs vary based on the number of seats filled on the buses. The lowest possible cost would be to completely fill two 55-passenger buses. That scenario is highly unlikely due to the number of instrumental students in the program. However, if we can get to 90 including chaperones, we will meet the target of \$445. (This is a change from what was quoted to those attending Open House. I incorrectly used numbers from the band trip 5 years ago and didn't account for increases in park admission/festival registration/hotel rooms/bus charges over time). If we end up in the “danger zone” of around 65, the cost could be as high as \$495, as we still need to pay for the seats that we don't fill on the second bus. We will do the best we can through choral parent association fundraisers like the madrigal dinner and cabaret night to reduce the cost per student. We won't know how much we can help until we determine the profit.

The deadlines for meeting individual trip goals are as follows:

- \$150 deposit and commitment form are due by November 30, 2016
- Second \$150 deposit is due by February 1, 2017
- Final amount due April 7, 2017 (total amount will be announced once the number of students and chaperones attending is confirmed)

Fundraising

Beyond the initial deposit, students can meet our goal through fundraising or contributions to the Choral Parents Association. E-mails have been coming since the beginning of September communicating the various fundraisers already taking place. If you are not on the fundraising/Choral Parents e-mail list, send a message to nhchoralparents@gmail.com and ask to be added. So far, we've held a hoagie sale, cinnamon swirl bread sale, and the Sarris Christmas Candy sale is currently running. There are plans for a pepperoni roll sale in January and the Sarris Easter Candy sale in March. The larger fundraising events (Madrigal Dinner and Cabaret Night) benefit the whole group, and profits made go to lower the trip cost and purchase trip t-shirts, in addition to purchasing other supplies needed for the program.

E-Mail Communication

The majority of details regarding the trip will be shared via e-mail and website updates. If you are going on the tour, please register your e-mail at www.northhillschoralmusic.org > Cedar Point 2017

Reserving your spot

To help us in determining final costs and keeping track of individual contributions toward the trip goal, you must return the slip attached along with your deposit by November 30, 2016.

It is our hope as a music department that the spring tour can be a positive experience for our students, families, directors, and school district. As we work toward our goals, we can continue to improve our program. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at cloonans@nhsd.net.

Musically yours,

Mr. Shaun Cloonan
NHHS Choral Director

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

As of November 15, 2016

DAY 1 – FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017

3:00PM Buses arrive at NHHS
3:15PM Depart NHHS, dinner en route
7:30PM Visit Kalahari Indoor Waterpark
Check into Breakers Express Hotel
11:00PM Lights Out – security guards on duty until
6:00AM

DAY 2 – SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017

Morning Boxed breakfast in hotel
Music in the Parks Festival competitions (watch bands/orchestras until lunch)
Provided Lunch
Choral performances (instrumental groups watch choirs)
Afternoon Cedar Point for remainder of the day
Dinner at the park (\$15 cash included)
Awards ceremony at the park
10:00PM Depart Cedar Point
11:00PM Lights Out – security guards on duty until 6:00AM

DAY 3 – SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017

Morning Boxed breakfast in hotel, check out
Arrive at Cedar Point for early admission (Cedar Point Hotel guests only)
Lunch at park (\$15 cash included)
2:00PM Depart Cedar Point
3:30PM Self-guided tour of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
5:45PM Depart Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
Dinner en route (\$15 cash included)
8:30PM Arrive at NHHS

North Hills High School



**Music Department Performance Tour
Friday-Sunday, May 19-21, 2017**

*For us to reserve a space for you on the performance tour, you must return the form below to the appropriately labeled drawer in the Choir Room unit with your deposit by **November 30, 2016**.*



2017 Performance Tour Commitment Contract

Student Name (print clearly) _____

I commit to participate in the North Hills Music Department performance tour to Cedar Point and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame on May 19-21, 2017. I understand that **I must be fully prepared for performances** and I understand **my individual financial contribution** toward the trip goal.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____