



North Hills School District

North Hills High School

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Shaun Cloonan, director, ext. 2731

www.nhchoiranddrama.net

Dear Choir Families,

We are excited to share with you an update of our **2022 Spring Performance Tour to Orlando, Florida!** We have been working on the plans for some time now and fundraisers will begin soon. Our students also continue to excel in rehearsals and bring pride to the community in performance. Thank you for supporting them in so many ways!

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/performance/workshop schedules*

Who is invited on this tour?

All members of the Chorale and Symphonic Choir attending will create a “tour choir” that performs. The instrumental tour is happening the same weekend in the same locations. We run “separate” tours on paper mostly due to the finances of having 2 different parent booster groups. Our goal is to allow students to perform and participate in all activities. While we have a high number of students in the choirs that are also instrumental students, they typically travel with the NHIPA. So, we usually have a smaller number on our official list traveling with us, even though all of those students also perform with us. The directors coordinate schedules and inform the students of the details to making performances.

Who chaperones the trip?

Mr. Cloonan, Mrs. Pritchard, Ms. Sarazen, Artistic Ambassadors tour escort Rick Sicilio, and nurse chaperone Heather Geyer. 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. To see exactly what is required, go to the district website at www.nhsd.net, then click the link under the “Parents” menu option for “Volunteers.” The type of volunteer for overnight trips is a “Program Volunteer.”

Our tour nurse functions like the school nurse when at school, caring for ill students and administering medication. Separate health forms and medication info will be collected in the spring.

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. Behavior reflects not only on our students, but on the North Hills School District as a whole.

Calendar

A few additional after-school rehearsals for the “tour choir” 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.nhchoiranddrama.net. There is a separate page dedicated specifically to this tour.

What is the cost of the trip?

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

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. We will do the best we can through choral parent association fundraisers to reduce the cost per student. We won't know how much we can help until we determine the profit of those events.

Estimated cost: \$1100-\$1300

Payment Schedule

The deadlines for meeting individual contribution goals are as follows:

- Initial \$50 Deposit & Commitment Letter: Friday, October 15, 2021
- 2nd \$200 Payment Due: Friday, November 5, 2021
- 3rd \$250 Payment & *Disney Health Form* Due: Friday, December 10, 2021
- 4th \$250 Payment Due: Friday, January 21, 2022
- *Rooming Lists Finalized/sent to Artistic Ambassadors: January 28, 2022*
- 5th \$250 Payment Due: Friday, February 25, 2022
- Final Payment Due: Friday, March 18, 2022

(Final amount will be based on final numbers and any amount the Choral Parents may be able to contribute from the choir-wide fundraising events)

NOTE: All payments/contributions made toward the group goal are non-refundable. Hotel, transportation, park admission, performance fee to Disney Imagination Campus, meals, and reservations do not allow refunds if we cancel. So, even if you are unable to attend after initially committing, we will still be charged for your “spot” in the group as the overall numbers.

Fundraising

Beyond the initial deposit, students can meet our goal through fundraising or contributions to the Choral Parents Association. The NHCPA leadership has put together a fundraising schedule to allow for many opportunities to offset the total cost per person. If you are not on the fundraising/Choral Parents e-mail list, send a message to nhchoralparents@gmail.com and ask to be added. A separate sheet will be distributed and discussed with fundraiser types and dates. The larger fundraising events (Cabaret Night, restaurant nights like Chipotle) benefit the whole group, and profits made go to lower the trip cost and purchase tour t-shirts and uniforms, 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 send an email to nhchoralparents@gmail.com to be included on the distribution list.

Remind Group & Text Notifications

As with previous tours, a separate class has been created in Remind so that announcements can be quickly made and sent out to the whole group. In addition to emails about deadlines, text notifications will be sent out to all who have subscribed to the class.

To join using the **Remind app** on your mobile device, click the Join a Class button and type in class code **@nhtour2022**

- Make sure to enable notifications for the Remind app so that you see when messages are sent. I have mine set up so they appear just like a regular text message so that I can reply quickly.

To receive **texts only** without using the app, send a text message to 81010 with the message @nhtour2022

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 **OCTOBER 15, 2021**.

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
cloonans@nhsd.net
412-318-1400, x2731

WORKING TOUR ITINERARY

As of October 5, 2021 – This will change multiple times before the final version as we receive more information about performance locations/times. Which park we are in on a specific day will change accordingly.

DAY 1 - TRAVEL

Sunday, April 10, 2022

3:00PM Buses depart hilltop (travel overnight with rest stops/driver changes/meals)

DAY 2 – TRAVEL/WATERPARK/EPCOT

Monday, April 11, 2022 – students excused from class

Arrive in Orlando around lunch time

Afternoon at Typhoon Lagoon Waterpark

Check into hotel

Evening at Epcot

DAY 3 – MAGIC KINGDOM

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 – students excused from class

Morning Marching Band performance down Main Street in Magic Kingdom

Remainder of day at Magic Kingdom

DAY 4 –DISNEY SPRINGS/ANIMAL KINGDOM

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 – students excused from class

Choir performance on Marketplace Stage at Disney Springs

Remainder of day at Animal Kingdom

DAY 4 – HOUSE OF BLUES/HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

Thursday, April 14, 2022 – Spring Break

Check out of hotel

Lunchtime Orchestra performance at House of Blues

Afternoon/Evening at Hollywood Studios

Depart after park closing (travel overnight with rest stops/driver change/meals)

DAY 5 – TRAVEL

Friday, April 15, 2022 – Spring Break

5:00PM Arrive at hilltop



2021-22 Performance Tour Commitment Contract

Student Name (print clearly) _____

Preferred email(s) for tour communication (parents and/or student):

I commit to participate in the North Hills Music Department performance tour to Orlando, Florida on **April 10-15, 2022**.

I understand that **I must be fully prepared for performances**. I understand **my individual contribution** toward the group financial goal and that contributions are **non-refundable** even if I choose not to attend at a later date.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

*To reserve a space for you on the performance tour, you must return the form above to the appropriately labeled drawer in the Choir Room with your \$50 deposit by **October 15, 2021**. Checks should be made out to "Choral Parents of NHSD" with the student's name in the memo.*