



North Hills School District

North Hills High School

53 Rochester Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15229-1189

Phone: 412.318.1400 Fax: 412.318.1403

www.nhsd.net



Shaun Cloonan, director, ext. 2731

www.nhchoiranddrama.net

Dear Choir Families,

We are excited to share with you an update of our **2020 Spring Performance Tour to Williamsburg & Busch Gardens, Virginia!** 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 Women's Choir and Symphonic Choir – depending on the number from each group, we may do a combined performance as a “tour choir,” in addition to the North Hills Singers performing their own set. 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 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 or Lauren Campolongo, 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. 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 Heather Geyer 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. However, if we can get to 95 including chaperones, we will meet the target of \$550. If we end up in the “danger zone” of around 65, the cost could be as high as \$600, 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 of those events.

Payment Schedule

The deadlines for meeting individual contribution goals are as follows:

- Initial \$25 Deposit & Commitment Letter: Friday, December 6, 2019
- 2nd \$125 Payment Due: Friday, January 10, 2020
- 3rd \$150 Payment Due: Friday, February 14, 2020
- 4th \$150 Payment Due: Friday, March 13, 2020
- Rooming Lists Finalized/sent to Artistic Ambassadors: Friday, March 17, 2020
- Final Payment Due: Friday, April 3, 2020
(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, Colonial Williamsburg, Music in the Parks registration (with Busch Gardens admission), and other sightseeing 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 CPA 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 (Madrigal Dinner, 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 @nhtour2020

- 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 @nhtour2020

To receive **email notifications** only, send an email (subject can be blank) to nhtour2020@mail.remind.com.

To use the **website version** only, go to <https://www.remind.com/join/nhtour2020>

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 December 6, 2019.

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 November 19, 2019

DAY 1, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

2:15 p.m. Buses arrive at North Hills High School
3:00 p.m. Buses depart North Hills High School – dinner en route
11:00 p.m. Arrive at Hotel (specific hotel location TBA – still working out reservations)
Midnight Lights out: security guards on duty until 6:00 a.m.

DAY 2, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

TBD Breakfast at the hotel (Included)
TBD Music in the Parks performances at area high school
Daytime activity depending on performance time: hotel pool party, Dave & Busters, etc.
TBD Lunch or Dinner at Shield's Tavern in Colonial Williamsburg
10:30 p.m. Return to hotel
11:00 p.m. Lights out: security guards on duty until 6:00 a.m.

DAY 3, SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel (Included)
9:45 a.m. Depart hotel for Busch Gardens (park hours 10am-10pm)
TBA Provided Lunch in park with cash allotment
TBA Provided Dinner in park with cash allotment
5:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony in Park: Royal Palace Theater
9:30 p.m. Meet at Front Gate (inside park)
9:45 p.m. Depart for hotel
11:00 p.m. Lights out: security guards on duty until 6:00 a.m.

DAY 4, SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel (included)
8:00-8:15 a.m. Check out of hotel rooms and load buses
8:30 a.m. Depart hotel for Colonial Williamsburg
9:00 a.m. Guided Tour of Colonial Williamsburg
12:00 p.m. Provided Lunch in Merchant's Square with cash allotment
2:00 p.m. Depart Williamsburg for Pittsburgh (dinner en route)
10:00 p.m. Arrive at North Hills High School

*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 \$25 deposit by **December 6, 2019**. Checks should be made out to "Choral Parents of NHSD" with the student name in the memo.*



2020 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 Williamsburg and Busch Gardens, Virginia on **April 16-19, 2020**.

I understand that **I must be fully prepared for performances** and I understand **my individual contribution** toward the group financial goal.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____