

2016 JRW 9th Grade Band Cincinnati TOUR

Invitation Letter October 21st, 2015

Dear 9th Grade Band Students and Parents,

The time has come to reserve your spot as a participant in the 2016 9th Grade Band Cincinnati Tour. This trip features an exciting array of music education, music performance and fun! The music education highlights include a performance clinic with a professional conductor, and an opportunity to see the famed Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in a live Performance.

The tour begins on Thursday morning, May 12, 2016 and concludes with the band's arrival back at Riverside late Saturday evening, May 14, 2016. As with any field trip experience, there are a number of important items that potential participants will need to know prior to tour commitment. This invitation letter is

designed to give each student and his/her parents all the necessary information needed to make a decision for participation. ALL students, regardless of your election to participate or not, must return the **Tour Commitment Form** (last page of this packet). If your student is going, the deposit is due when the Tour Commitment Form is turned in.

As the tour draws near, we will have a parent meeting two to three weeks prior to departure to review the tour in greater detail. Until that time, please feel encouraged to contact me with any questions you might have at aaron.draime@riversideschools.net. I look forward to seeing all of you with us in Cincinnati this year!

Musically yours,

Aaron Draime



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What does the tour look like?

For your convenience, I have attached to this invitation letter, our current *tentative* travel itinerary for May. Below are a few highlights. While all items listed will be included in this tour, there will be minor adjustments made to the sequence due to scheduling considerations. Please take a moment to review all the exciting events scheduled for this year's tour.

Highlights

- Transportation via first-class, DVD-equipped, air-conditioned motor coaches
- First-class accommodation for two nights with deluxe continental breakfast buffets at the hotel
- BB Riverboat Dinner Cruise
- Admission to COSI
- Admission to the Extreme Screen Film at COSI
- Admission to Kings Island
- Music Clinic
- Ticket for Cincinnati Symphony
- 1 Security guard at hotel
- Friday night dinner at Bucca di Beppo's

Who will be supervising the students?

Mr. Draime and Mr. Schwartz will be chaperoning the trip this year. The primary contact for the trip is Mr. Draime. We will need chaperones for this trip to assist with student management, bus management and general activities. I will take as many parents as we have room for. If you are interested in going on the trip, please fill out the attached form and pay on-line with the form. Space is on a first-come, first-served basis.

As a student, what are my responsibilities regarding the tour?

First and foremost, it is important for each participating student to be aware that he must abide by all Riverside School District policies regarding behavior and conduct for the entire duration of the tour. The Riverside administration wishes to make clear that any infraction on this tour will not be tolerated. Second, we want to make all students aware that the code of conduct for this trip (which you will receive as the tour draws nearer) is also in effect for the duration of the tour.

ALL students are required to have all school work for all classes completed upon return Monday, May 16th.

Tell me about refunds.

Naturally, it is imperative that each family remains committed to this tour. However, unanticipated and rare events can occur which may adversely affect tour participation. We are stating, as concisely as possible, that the only way to qualify for a refund is to enroll in a travel insurance program. You can go to the Bob Rogers Travel website -- www.bobrogerstravel.com. At the bottom of the web page are two companies that will insure your trip. Please do not delay. Most companies require insurance to be purchased at the time of deposit or shortly after. FYI, about 10 people purchased insurance last year—two of them actually used it.

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What is the total cost and payment schedule?

We are thrilled to provide for each participating family a plan to make this trip more affordable. We have designed this plan to break up the total cost of the trip over a time period.

The total cost of the trip is approximately \$475.00. Each year the Riverside Band Boosters commits an amount to each participant's final cost (typically \$40.00) **provided that he/she participates in the Winter Citrus Fruit Sale**. That already takes the cost of the trip to \$435.00. There are two factors that will determine the final cost of the trip. (The cost should not rise above \$475.00. The cost has never risen in all the trips I have taken.) The first factor in the cost of the trip is the number of people attending. If more people attend than my initial estimate, the cost of the trip will decrease. The other major factor is your student's participation in the fundraiser.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment Date	Description	Amount
Friday, November 13, 2015	Trip Deposit	\$100.00
Friday, January 8, 2016	Payment #2	\$120.00
Friday, February 12, 2016	Payment #3	\$120.00
Friday, March 11, 2016	Final Payment	\$135.00

*These payments may be different depending on your participation in the fruit sale **AND** the total number of participants. An individual final payment will be given to each individual for their final payment. Please do **NOT** pay in full on first payment. You may pay the first three at once. Please wait for a final payment sheet to finish payment.*

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SPOT ON THIS TOUR WITH A DEPOSIT OF \$100.00 BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015. PARTICIPATION IS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

DO NOT SEND CASH OR CHECK! PAY ONLINE ONLY AT WWW.RIVERSIDEBANDS.COM. CLICK THE ONLINE PAYMENTS BUTTON ON THE LEFT SIDE. YOU WILL NEED TO SET UP AN ACCOUNT. THIS IS A ONE-TIME SET UP. PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR LOGIN AND PASSWORD INFORMATION, AS I HAVE NO ACCESS TO IT. THIS ACCOUNT WILL/CAN BE USED FOR MULTIPLE BAND ITEMS UNTIL YOUR STUDENT GRADUATES. (YES. IT SAYS DONATION. THAT'S OK.)

If you are purchasing trip insurance, go directly to www.bobrogerstravel.com and click on the insurance companies at the bottom left of the page. Just a reminder that if you are purchasing insurance, it must be done with or soon after the initial deposit.

This will be a unique experience for our band family. We hope that you will be able to take advantage of this great opportunity.