

CHS Ram Band London Trip

The Cheshire High School Marching Band will be going to The New Year's Day Parade and Festival London – 2011/12.

After reviewing the list of students that have committed to the trip and the instrumentation of those that have signed up, John Kuhner and the BPA Board have decided that we have enough to march in the London Parade on New Year's Day. Although the number for the band is enough to march, we will need to move a few students to different instruments/skilled positions. Percussion and Color Guard are the two areas where the numbers need to be increased. John Kuhner will assess the instrument makeup of the band and seek volunteers to move to these positions. We also would encourage current percussionists and guard members to consider participating on the trip.

At this time we do not have enough to perform as an orchestra in the concert portion of the festival. Those that were hoping to play in the orchestra concert that still want to participate could be used in other instrumental positions with the marching band. If additional string players commit to the trip, however, especially, violas, cellos, and basses; then we could possibly reconsider this decision and schedule an orchestra performance.

Just as a reminder of some of the events surrounding this event, the Band would march in the New Year's Day Parade January 1, 2012, through some of London's most famous streets including Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall with finale arena adjacent to The Palace of Westminster, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey. A street audience in excess of half a million people is expected and TV broadcast reaching over 220 million worldwide. There is also a concert option for a band performance at one of the concert venues as part of the Gala Festival. This performance possibility will be determined at a later date.

The New Year's Day Parade and Festival London is the first official event in Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the first official event in London's Olympic year.

The Band would depart from the USA on December 27, 2011 and return on January 3, 2012. During the trip, as part of the program, the following events are available to the group.

- A half day educational tour of London's historic West End and City.
- A half day educational tour of the full group's choice from Windsor, Hampton Court or Greenwich.
- A half day excursion to The Tower of London, a tour of the Tower and also a visit to the Crown Jewels.
- A full day educational tour first to the City of Oxford with a special visit to one of the University's Colleges, and then to Stratford upon Avon, birthplace of William Shakespeare.

Payment books will be going out to those on the list to go.

This will be a truly memorable trip for all that attend. This is a chance to show London and the world Cheshire's finest talent.

Bill Peinhardt