



Follow The Beat!



Cheshire High School Band Parents' Association - November 2007

SPECIAL EDITION

This Special Issue of *Follow the Beat* summarizes the current planning activities for the Spring 2008 Trip to the **Festivals of Music** in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

*Festivals of Music*SM

TRIP DESCRIPTION:

From the Festivals of Music web site www.festivalsofmusic.com/whymfestivals.asp:

“The Festivals of Music Advantage”

“Since 1982, Festivals of Music has inspired tens of thousands of young people. Our staff of experienced music educators strive to provide an event that combines a positive, fun experience for students along with strong educational standards. Our hope for your performing group is not just to win a competition, but to establish an attitude of accomplishment in all of our participants and instill that music is an essential part of every student's education.”

Which CHS Groups can Participate?

The Cheshire High School **Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra and Jazz Ensembles** will be participating in the 2008 Festivals of Music. This trip includes a mix of fun, sun and music, as you'll see from the tentative itinerary. The band events include Festivals of Music adjudicated competitions.

Students participating in Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra and Jazz Ensembles are all encouraged to attend this exciting Festival. The Band Director will make the final decision as to which Groups will travel. If your child's ensemble does not attend, your Trip Application-Contract and deposit check will be returned.

Are Adult Volunteers Needed?

Absolutely. Volunteers will be needed for many aspects of the Trip. This is not a “Marching Band” Trip and parents from all of the ensembles are invited and encouraged to participate. In addition to the obvious need for **Trip Chaperones**, a 5 to 7 member **Trip Committee** will be necessary to co-ordinate all aspects of the trip including all financial and travel requirements. Parents will also be necessary to run the various fundraisers that can help defray the cost of the trip.

What is the Trip Itinerary?

The Group will depart on **Thursday, April 24, 2008** and return to Cheshire on **Sunday, April 27, 2008**. A more detailed Itinerary is available from the Music Department Office.

When is the Deadline for Trip Sign-Ups?

Due to the requirements placed upon us by the Festival and our Travel Coordinators, the **Trip Application-Contract & Permission Slip** must be completed and returned no later than **Wednesday, November 7, 2007**. Each Form must be accompanied by a check in the sum of \$50 payable to "CHSBPA-Virginia Beach" for each person attending.

You may deposit all forms and checks in the **Music Department Lockbox** outside the Band Office or mail them to: CHSBPA – Virginia Beach; P.O. Box 463; Cheshire, CT 06410

What is the Cost of the Trip?

The cost of the trip is *estimated* to be **\$800 per person [students and adults]**. Trip Insurance is optional and the cost is yet to be determined. The trip cost does include all meals. It is suggested that each student should bring approximately \$100 to pay for additional meals and any souvenir type items they wish to purchase. The *tentative Schedule of Payments* is set forth below:

Payment	Due Date	Amount
1 st Trip Payment - deposit	Wednesday, November 7, 2007	\$ 50.00
2 nd Trip Payment	Friday, November 30, 2007	\$ 150.00
3 rd Trip Payment	Monday, December 31, 2007	\$ 200.00
4 th Trip Payment	Thursday, January 31, 2008	\$ 200.00
5 th Trip Payment	Friday, February 29, 2008	\$ 200.00
	ESTIMATED TOTAL:	\$ 800.00
Optional Travel Insurance	To be determined	To be determined

Please note: the last payment may be adjusted should we find, when all is said and done, that there is either an overage or a shortfall in the funds.

Are any of the Trip Payments Refundable if a Student or Chaperone cannot attend?

Once the funds have transferred to the Travel Agency they are non-refundable. Of the initial Trip Deposit, all will be immediately non-refundable once sent in to the Travel Agency. The schedule of remaining payments to the Travel Agency is not known at this time. If the funds have not been transferred, refunds of any Trip Deposit monies are in the discretion of the Music Director. You may wish to reduce your risk of loss by purchasing Trip Insurance, which is explained below.

What coverage is provided by Trip Insurance?

The exact nature of the coverage is set forth in the policy itself. It is important to note, however, that it does not cover cancellation of the trip by the School Administration in the event of civil unrest, war, terrorist acts or the “state of world affairs”. Cancellation of the Trip because of travel restrictions imposed by the School Administration, Board of Education etc. may result in the loss of all your deposits paid as of that date. Simply put, Trip Insurance does not eliminate all financial risk of loss.

Evidence of medical insurance will be required of all trip participants.

Will there be fundraisers to help offset the cost?

Depending upon the level of parental involvement, numerous fundraising activities will be available to the students. Any money “earned” by the students will be credited to his or her individual Student Fundraising Travel Account maintained by the Band Parents’ Association. If your child does not have an existing account, one will automatically be created.

How are Trip Payments applied from my child’s Student Fundraising Travel Account?

Any funds credited to your child’s Student Fundraising Travel Account may be applied to offset the cost of the trip for the student and his or her parent[s] if the parent[s] attends the trip as a volunteer chaperone. The balance in the account will be applied to the Final Payment first, then the 4th Payment, then the 3rd Payment, etc.

What if I have more questions?

You may contact Mr. Kuhner or any member of the Band Parents’ Board of Directors.

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