

March 22, 2021

To Raytown Quality Schools School Board,

The choir and orchestra departments at Raytown South High School are requesting permission to take students on a performance trip to Orlando, FL and Walt Disney World in April of 2022.

The opportunity is to participate in Festival Disney, an adjudicated performance with critiques both written and audio recorded, awards, and supported by NAFME (National Association for Music Education) as well as aligning with the National Standards for Music Education. We plan to provide additional performance and clinic opportunities, as well. This would be the first time for many of our Raytown students to fly, leave Missouri (excepting the slight cross-over into Kansas), and go to Walt Disney World! What an opportunity to do these things and perform!

Our trip would be open to all students enrolled in any choir or orchestra course for the full year in the 2021-2022 school year--creating a **must** for in-person instruction enrollment. This opens the trip up to *current* 8th-11th grade students. At this point we as directors do not know exactly how many students will participate, but we plan to open the trip up to 55 people to start with and add a waiting list. This number is based on cost per participant in filling all seats on one bus first. We estimate that likely we may have 80 participants including adult chaperons and staff members.

We plan to use Bob Rogers Travel, a company created for music trips by a band director, but will seek other bids if requested, once approved.

This trip would be based on the updated school calendar dates, our Solo and Ensemble dates, Large Group Contest, and other days off. We expect to leave on a Wednesday afternoon and return on a Sunday evening, missing only two instructional days. Students will be encouraged to do homework at the airport and on the plane. Dates selected as offered by Festival Disney would be April 6-10, 2022.

The cost breakdown is cheapest with 80-89 participants and only slightly more with 55-56 participants. With Covid restrictions requiring only one participant per bed and with our hotel accommodations being suites with pull-out couches, we will have triple rooms which increases the cost from quads. Many portions of the trip are *estimated* this far out from the travel date and may go **down** in cost. We requested our travel agent estimate high for "worst case scenario" planning. With a 55-56 participant package, triple rooms, the cost without airfare is approximately \$1172.00 each. Airfare is estimated at \$350-\$550 and will be locked in 6 months prior to departure. This brings the cost to around \$1700 with everything included. We will also require each participant to purchase a trip insurance with a "Cancel for Any Reason" clause which will add \$81 each but guarantee 75%+ of all monies back should there be an emergency or worsening of the pandemic.

The trip costs would include things such as:

- Airfare from MCI to MCO
- Charter busses in Orlando
- 4 nights at a hotel near Walt Disney World
- Breakfast daily
- Overnight Security
- Three 1-day 1-park tickets to Walt Disney World
- Festival Disney registration fee
- Individual Payment System online with Bob Rogers Travel, if approved
- 4 complimentary director packages, land only
- 2 complimentary airfare packages, (2 to be fundraised)
- Drawstring Bag for every participant
- Luggage Tags
- All Gratuities
- Tour Director
- Video Souvenir
- Group Pizza Dinner
- Group Lunch at Planet Hollywood
- Dining Cards for in the parks (\$15 each)

Fundraising has already begun and will continue with 12 months until the trip takes place. We are working with our bookkeeper to make plans for current 8th grade students to participate in all fundraisers with the high school students for the sake of the trip. All students will receive a receipt for any fundraising payment made as well as be logged into a spreadsheet kept by each individual director. Trip payments will be made online directly to the travel company using a system called IPS (Individual Payment System) with a personalized receipt given for every payment and fundraising payments already applied. Here are some specifics of what IPS does:

- Each traveler has their own account
 - Both director and individual student families can login
 - Automatic reminders for upcoming payments
 - No late fees
 - Director-level payment status review
- Apply fundraising moneys to student accounts

Adults Participating:

- Gretchen Kemp, Choir Director, *full package included*
- Brandon Ford, Orchestra Director, *full package included*
- Erin Lillie, Accompanist, *flight fundraised, land package included*
- Austin Shults, Assistant Orchestra Director, *flight fundraised, land package included*
- Angela Lea, additional certificated staff member from RSHS, *trip cost fundraised or paid by RSHS*
- Adult *self-paying* Chaperons who have been vetted through background checks and fingerprinting
- One RSHS Administrator, *District or RSHS paid, currently listed as Shunton Hammond*

Previous trip with RSHS Choir and Orchestra in recent years:

- ★ St. Louis, MO 2016, cost approx. \$500/participant, **G. Kemp participated**
- ★ Colorado Springs, CO, 2019, cost approx \$750/participant, **G. Kemp, B. Ford participated**

Please forward any questions to Gretchen.Kemp@raytownschools.org or Brandon.Ford@raytownschools.org.