



NORTON INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Thomas Chiera, Director of Bands
Charles A. Kaufman, Assistant Director
Dennis Oswald, Assist. Marching Director
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Dear Norton School Board Members,

I am writing to request approval for the Norton High School Marching Band to represent the school district and Norton community as a participating band in the 2014 Gator Bowl Parade, Festival, and Halftime show in Jacksonville Florida. If you have further questions after review of this proposal please do not hesitate to contact me. After investigating this opportunity I am certain it will be a memorable, educational, and enjoyable experience for all involved.

Where: Jacksonville, Florida
Why: Gator Bowl Parade, Field Show, and Half-time show
When: Dec 28 2014 – Jan. 4, 2015
Who: All Band students, staff, and chaperones are invited
Price: approximately \$900 per person

Tentative Itinerary

Charter Busses will leave out of Norton transporting all participants December 28, 2014.

Events in Jacksonville will include participation in the Gator Bowl Parade with estimated attendance of 30,000-60,000 people as well as regional television coverage. Performance with a mass high school band for half-time of the college bowl game as well as a possible participation in the Gator Bowl field show competition to be determined by student participation in the trip.

Other events may include recreational time in Jacksonville. Beach and shopping opportunities as well as a trip to Orlando's Harry Potter theme park for a day. All transportation, housing, and meals are included.

Who will be attending:

The intention is to include all band students. The trip is not in any way required. Of course cost is a major determining factor. My goal is to make every effort to give every student the best opportunity to participate by making accommodations with fundraisers, sponsorship, and possible scholarships. Participation will be a determining factor in the success of the trip therefore if we do not have enough participation (75%) to respectfully represent the band program, school and community we will re evaluate our travel plans. Along with the student body staff will include directors Tom Chiera, Dennis Oswald and other available band staff. The band has a history of travelling efficiently and effectively with a great team of parent chaperones. Our traditional equation is to have at least one chaperone per ten students balancing out the number of each gender to accommodate the student population. We also travel with a parent that is a registered nurse in case of emergencies.

Fundraising:

The Norton Music Boosters are geared up to provide as many fundraisers as needed to support the student's financial needs. We have already held sub and fruit sales in preparation of future expenses. Discussions have included other traditional sales such as candy, cookie dough, zap-a-snack, but also included service type fundraisers like carwashes, lawn services, babysitting, etc. The Norton Music Booster Bingo operation has also established itself as a great fundraising opportunity. There is also the possibility of getting community and corporate sponsors to help defray the group expenses. I am aware that this is a major financial undertaking. I am very confident that the group of staff, students and parents involved in the band program are determined to make a great effort at accomplishing this challenge.

Will the students miss any days of school?

The Gator Bowl trip will fall over winter break so there should be no school attendance affected by the trip. The return date is not finalized yet based on performance opportunities with the worst case scenario is returning Sunday before school starts back.

Will the marching band still travel to Indianapolis for BOA Grand Nationals in the fall?

Yes, the Gator Bowl trip is independent of the marching band participation in BOA Grand Nationals. In the attempt to make the year more economical our stay in Indianapolis should only be one night (still pending details of the schedule).. This worked out well since our performance date is Friday we can still provide the students the opportunity to see Finals on Saturday without adding another costly hotel night.

Who is the company that is organizing the trip:

**2650 S. Decker Lake Blvd, Suite 200
West Valley City, UT 84119**

WorldStrides is the largest and most trusted educational travel organization in the United States. Since 1967, WorldStrides has provided a variety of educational travel programs to more than five million elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as to undergraduate and graduate students at the university level. Approximately 270,000 students travel each year with WorldStrides to destinations throughout the United States and the world. We have provided the opportunity for educators and students from all 50 states and several foreign countries to experience travel to more than 85 countries on six continents.

Musically,

Thomas Chiera 3/27/14