



NORTON INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Thomas Chiera, Director of Bands
Charles A. Kaufman, Assistant Director
Dennis Oswald, Assist. Marching Director
4128 South Cleveland-Massillon Road
Norton, Ohio 44203-5697
(330) 825-7277; Fax (330) 825-4275

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 2013 Disney Music Days in Orlando 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: Orlando Florida
Why: Disney Magic Kingdom Parade, Studio session for concert band, possible Jazz Band stage performance
When: April 1 2013 – April 6 2013
Who: All Band students, staff, and chaperones
Price: approximately \$800 per person

Tentative Itinerary

Charter Busses will leave out of Norton transporting all participants April 1.

Events in Orlando will include participation in one of the park parades. Our application is in for the Magic Kingdom "Electric Lights" parade. A studio session for the Concert Bands with a Disney studio professional aimed towards creating a sound track to a Disney classic video, as well as possible stage performance for the Jazz Band pending student participation in the trip.

Other events may include recreational time at three Disney parks. Beach and shopping opportunities as well as a ticket to Cirque du Soleil "La Nouba". All transportation, housing, and meals are included.

Who will be attending:

The intention is to include all band students. 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, Charles Kaufman, 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:

"Pride, Class, & Dignity"

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 for both the individual family as well as the common group. 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 Disney trip will fall over spring 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 Orlando 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 will only be one night. 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:

International Travel, Inc.
4004 Hillsboro Road - Suite 236B
Nashville, TN. 37215

This is the same company that managed our trip to Phoenix two years ago. They did a great job creating a smooth well organized experience.

Thank you for your consideration in regards to our travel plans. I believe one of the many functions of the instrumental music program is to give Norton students memorable experiences that they would not be able to recreate in any other experience. This opportunity certainly would accomplish that goal. The band program in the past ten years has travelled to Phoenix, New York City, Chicago, and Indianapolis many times. Each trip we have established a reputation of Pride, Class, and Dignity with the hotels, restaurants, clinicians, and all organizations we interact with. This is due to our expectations of how Norton students carry themselves with appreciation and professionalism, but also a large part is due to our committed booster parents that have learned how to travel efficiently with the group.

It is a privilege to be able to travel and our honor to have the opportunity to represent Norton. I hope that I have answered all potential concerns and am excited to hear back from you.

Musically,

 9-5-12
Tom Chiera