

September 15, 2015

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce that, pending School Committee approval, the North Andover High School Music Department will be travelling to Williamsburg, Virginia to participate in the World Strides Heritage Performance Festival national competition! We will be leaving on Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup> and returning on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 2016. The trip is approximately \$725. This price includes 3 nights in a hotel, coach bus transportation to, from, and around Virginia, a ghost tour around Williamsburg, a dinner dance cruise, entrance into Busch Gardens theme park, all meals for the duration of the trip (with the exception of lunch on the way TO Virginia; students must bring money for this), adjudications for the bands and choruses, and a dinner and an awards ceremony at Busch Gardens with the other schools participating in the festival. It is sure to be an amazing time for all!

Attached, you will find a tentative itinerary and payment schedule, which will be updated throughout the planning process. We have a few fundraisers that are planned over the next few months to help defray the cost of the trip. In two weeks, we are starting a Yankee Candle Fundraiser, where 40% of student sales will be credited towards his/her individual trip account. This is an easy way for students to raise a lot of money! Looking ahead, we will also be holding two coffee houses, which is our big group fundraiser where all profits from the evening will be split evenly for each student. Also, 50% of the money each student makes in coffee house pre-sale tickets will go towards his/her individual trip account. Finally, we will be selling our annual Holiday cds, our cookie dough sales (which will go towards individual student accounts), and having fundraiser nights at local restaurants. Students will also have the opportunity to work at our fundraisers to help defray the cost of their individual trips. Updated payment slips that include earned fundraising money will be provided 1 ½ to 2 weeks prior to each due date. Please take advantage of these fundraisers! Scholarship/ fund assistance is available upon parental discussion with the band/ chorus teachers. However, fundraising efforts can greatly defray the cost of each individual trip.

If you wish to attend the trip, please return the signed trip contract with your \$125 non-refundable deposit made out to North Andover High School. All payments will be refunded if we do not receive approval from the school committee. Also attached to this letter is a list of frequently asked questions. Please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions.

Best Regards,

Sara Durkin  
Choral Director  
North Andover High School  
[durkins@northandover.k12.ma.us](mailto:durkins@northandover.k12.ma.us)  
(978) 794-1711 x50031

Justin Smalley  
Band Director  
North Andover High School  
[smalleyj@northandover.k12.ma.us](mailto:smalleyj@northandover.k12.ma.us)  
(978) 794-1711 x51211