

September 7, 2018

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce that the North Andover High School music department will be travelling to Nashville, Tennessee to participate in the WorldStrides Festival of Gold! We will be leaving from Logan Airport on Thursday, March 28th and returning on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The trip is approximately \$1575. This price includes 4 nights at a hotel in Nashville, airfare, all meals, activities and entertainment, two performances at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, an hour-long clinic for each performing group from world-renowned conductors, and the opportunity to perform with other gold medal winning groups from across the country. It is truly an experience of a lifetime! Please note that this trip is not mandatory, but we strongly encourage everyone to attend!

Attached, you will find a tentative itinerary and payment schedule, which will be updated throughout the planning process. We have some fundraisers that are planned over the next few months to help defray the cost of the trip. Currently, we are running 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 be selling Lyman Orchard pies that will come in time for Thanksgiving, we will also be holding two coffee houses (the first one being on Friday, November 30th where students have the opportunity to sell tickets early to profit their own trip, and we will be holding our annual Cookie Dough fundraiser in the winter. We will also be holding regular fundraisers at local restaurants, and plan on holding event nights to profit all members. Other fundraising opportunities will be announced as the details become available. Updated payment reminders that include earned fundraising money will be provided 1 ½ to 2 weeks prior to each due date. Payments can be made by check or in cash at this time.

We understand that this is an expensive trip. The students worked so hard in order to earn this opportunity, with both our bands and choirs earning gold medals in their competitions last year, so we have made it a priority to work hard with the students to fundraise as much money as possible to make this trip as inexpensive as possible. Due to the airline reservations and other tickets being purchased, there are deadlines for when money MUST be paid in full and when certain payments will not be able to be refunded. Please refer to the payment schedule for these dates and deadlines. Please note that students MUST be paid in full by the specified guidelines. If there are extenuating circumstances or if there is anyone in need of extended deadlines, please notify Mrs. Durkin or Mr. Smalley and extensions and/or arrangements can be made. Financial assistance for this trip is available through contacting the directors as soon as possible. Students will be expected to fundraise a large portion of their trip if they are receiving any type of assistance scholarship.

We will be having an **optional informational meeting on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** at 5pm in the auditorium to answer any questions.

If you wish to attend the trip, please return the signed trip contract with your \$300 non-refundable deposit made out to North Andover High School by September 21<sup>st</sup>. Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

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