PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL

95 High Street, Portland, Connecticut 06480

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May 22, 2019

Dear PHS Music Parents and Students,

We are very excited to announce that the Portland High School Band and Chorus will be traveling next spring to Orlando, Florida.  This is truly an awesome and exciting experience. Students will be traveling over April vacation from April 14-18, 2020. While in Orlando, students in each ensemble will have the opportunity to perform for thousands of people from all over the world and attend a recording session/clinic with one of Disney’s professional conductors.

For budgeting purposes, the estimated cost of the trip is $1625 for rooms with four students and $1690 for rooms of three.  (Please note, this price may be adjusted according to airline rates/fees) This includes air transportation, daily motor coach transfers while in Orlando, accommodations, all taxes and gratuities, breakfast daily, admission to attractions (5 day park hopper-pass to Disney Parks and other Disney attractions).  Students should plan to bring spending money for souvenirs, lunch and dinner.

Additionally, our tour company, Suburban Tours, has offered travel insurance to protect your investment in the trip in the event that a student has to cancel for reasons of unexpected emergencies and significant unforeseen events. Coverage up to $2000.00 is $54.00 (basic) or $81.00 (cancel for any reason) per person.  (Please see enclosed flyer for more details about the insurance options.)  If you choose to participate, please fill out the attached waiver form and payment as the decision to participate is only available when you make the initial deposit.

Suburban Tours requires interval payments in order to make arrangements and secure commitments for the various facets of the trip.   Consequently, deposits are divided into ten installments.  The first payment of $230.00 payable to PHS Music is due no later than June 14th.  (*If you choose to participate in the travel insurance, a* ***separate check*** *for the appropriate amount made payable to PHS and the waiver form are also due with the first payment.)*Subsequent payments of $155 are due on the 15th of each month, ending in March 2020. (Summer installments should be sent to Kristin Novak-95 High St-Portland, CT 06480 attn. Music Trip).  **Initiating the deposit plan indicates a commitment to the trip,** therefore any payments received after October 15, 2019 are **non-refundable**.

Although the cost of the 2020 trip is higher than previous years, it does reflect the significant price increases throughout the travel and tourism industry. We believe the Disney experience is truly an experience of a lifetime for a young musician and far exceeds any other programs that we have experienced.  In an effort to help defray the overall cost, there will be at least four individual fundraisers throughout the fall and winter of next year.  We are looking into larger, group fundraisers as well.  The money earned from the fundraisers will be held in escrow and may be applied to the monthly payments, or returned to the individual upon final payment for the trip.

Lastly, performing in Orlando is not only an exciting opportunity but it is truly an honor.  Our ensembles will undergo a rigorous audition process and therefore will need to represent Portland in the highest standards of performance, behavior and participation.  Please review and sign the enclosed documents and return with the initial deposit by June 15th. We are looking forward to an unforgettable experience!

Updated Board of Education policy requires parents/guardians to read and sign several documents regarding overnight trips. The following forms are required: Form 4 (pgs. 4&9), Form 6 (pg. 11), Form 7 (pgs. 12&13). The following forms are dependent on individual needs: Form 5 (pg. 10) and Medicine Authorization (pg. 14) **All required paper work must be returned with the initial payment.** Please feel free to contact either director with any questions at 342-1720.

Sincerely,

Kristin Novak Sam Tucker