

February 1, 2023

Dear Parents and Students of the Belleville Marching Band:

It gives me great pleasure to announce officially that the Belleville High School Marching Band will be traveling to Florida in November of 2023! This trip will take place **Wednesday, November 8 through Sunday, November 12**. The total cost per student will be **\$2,000.00**, and will include hotel, airfare (yes, we are flying!), almost all meals, theme park experiences, and ground transportation while in Florida.

While our past trips with the marching band have included a bowl game in the Tampa area, we have decided instead to focus this trip on the Orlando attractions. The bowl trips were certainly memorable, but also limited the students' time together as a full ensemble and included a lot of traveling between cities in Florida that were quite taxing. In addition, the timing of the bowl game experiences was over Christmas break, when the parks and attractions are busting at the seams with other guests. Since our last trip in 2019, we have been exploring other options that give our students an amazing musical experience, as well as be able to reap the benefits of what the Disney and Universal parks have to offer during the "off season." Turns out that this can all happen for us through the magic of Disney!

Our Marching Tigers will be a part of one of the amazing parades that make their way through Disney's Magic Kingdom and will get the chance to go "backstage" and be a "cast member" for the day by performing in front of hundreds of people as we make our way through twists and turns of the park. Additionally, we are organizing the opportunity for the students to be involved in a mock recording studio session. That is, the students will actually get to become the soundtrack to a Disney movie scene, and learn the ins and out of what it takes to be a studio musician and play "Movie Music!" This is an opportunity that seldom comes along in a lifetime.

This trip is a 100% optional opportunity for your student. No band member will be penalized for not attending. The cost for the trip is substantial, and we feel it is well worth the investment, however you must be comfortable and able to commit to the payment plan in order to participate. Students may either pay the total cost outright or in monthly installments. Should you sign up to participate in this trip, it is **IMPERATIVE** that you make all payments by October 1st. (8 months from now!) Below you will find a pay schedule that must be strictly followed.

Because we knew that the cost of this trip would be substantial, the Band Boosters have already come up with multiple fundraisers to get you started! If you have questions about fundraising, please contact Amy Pearce at [bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com) for more information. The Boosters will continue to work diligently to come up with even more meaningful and worthwhile fundraisers that will help cut the cost, making this trip attainable for every student. Many of you already take advantage of the U of M concession opportunities. Families are already receiving \$100 per family member, per game, just by donating their time at U of M athletic events. For example, if you have three family members volunteer at an event, that is \$300 automatically applied to your Florida Trip. This is just one of many options that will be available to help you make this trip a reality for your student! If you are already fundraising with the Band Boosters and would like your credit to be applied toward your first payment, please contact Amy at [bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com).

In order for this trip to become a reality, we also need **adult chaperones** who are willing to join us. We will be looking for approximately 16 adult chaperones for this trip. The cost for chaperones will be \$1,000 each. The Band Boosters will cover the other 50% of the trip cost. These positions will be first-come, first-served and all chaperones are subject to a background check. If you are interested in being a **chaperone**, additional information is included in this packet.

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In addition to the chaperones, we will be looking for an individual or couple who would be willing to provide equipment transportation for the band. This will involve providing a vehicle that can pull a large trailer from Belleville to Orlando with all of our instruments and equipment on it. In exchange for your service, the Boosters will cover the full cost of your trip including hotel, theme park entry, gas and meals. If you are interested and willing to provide this service, please contact Amy Pearce at 734-787-8890 or [bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com). Thank you!

We personally find this an incredibly exciting opportunity for the students, and it is my sincere hope that somehow all will be able to participate. Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

*Nicholas Taylor*

Nicholas Taylor  
Director of Bands

*Michael Campbell*

Michael Campbell  
Associate Director of Bands

# REMIND 101

## DO IT TODAY! (if not already)

### ALL MARCHING BAND MEMBERS AND PARENTS

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY SIGNED UP, **YOU MUST SIGN UP NOW** FOR REMIND 101. We will use this to communicate with you about anything related to marching band. This includes payment reminders and important info during the season. Please try to do this ASAP!

- If you are already receiving messages from Mr. Taylor, please **DO NOT SIGN UP AGAIN**.

**Students, FIRST AND LAST NAME ONLY** when signing up. **DO NOT** use nicknames!

- Parents who sign up should try to link your name with your child. Or, put your child's name followed by "parent." **i.e. "Nick Taylor – Parent"**.
- When signing up, please make sure you sign up in the correct LAST NAME group in the codes below. **(i.e. if your name is John Smith, you would sign up under "Last Name R-S" as your LAST name is SMITH! 😊)**
  - Marching Band Last Name A-D = Enter- To: 81010 ; Message: @dbcb26
  - Marching Band Last Name E-K = Enter- To: 81010 ; Message: @6cd6df
  - Marching Band Last Name L-P = Enter- To: 81010 ; Message: @dc4cce
  - Marching Band Last Name R-S = Enter- To: 81010 ; Message: @chghc2
  - Marching Band Last Name T-Z = Enter- To: 81010 ; Message: @398kad

# CHAPERONE INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in being a chaperone for this trip to Florida. Past experience has proven that some adult chaperones attend these trips under the assumption that it will be a ‘vacation’. While we do want you to enjoy the trip, we also want to be very clear on a couple of important items so that your expectations are accurate.

## These trips are:

- Exhausting, more for the adults than the students. You are “on duty” 24/7 for the safety and security of our students.
- Alcohol free. When the kids go to bed, we watch their rooms or sleep ourselves. If you cannot live without the consumption of alcohol for 5 days, this trip is not for you. A student always knows what best practice is, and we must demonstrate that AT ALL TIMES as well.
- As mentioned above, this should not be viewed as a vacation. You are choosing to be a chaperone because you want the students to have the best experience and that means where the students go, we go. You will not have “alone time” on this trip. While you can still enjoy yourself, please remember the role we are asking of you.
- Often stressful when students become ill/tired. There may be times where you will be asked to stay back at the hotel with a sick student or care for a student in the middle of the night. Know that we all share the load, but you may be asked to miss out on park time to tend to any situations that may pop up.
- Extremely rewarding for our kids. We can help encourage this by being positive and outgoing, and being able to go with the flow. Sometimes we have to do things not everyone likes to do, but we must do it as a group, and must not moan and groan.

These have been (as you can probably figure out) some of our larger issues on past trips. If you are interested in offering guidance, providing safety in a nurturing environment, and can lead by example, we would love to have you sign up to chaperone.

The chaperone cost for this trip is **\$1,000 per person**. The Band Boosters will cover the other 50% of your trip cost. Please plan to make the same payment deadlines as the students.

Chaperones will not share rooms with students, but will be placed in groups of two per room. If you have a chaperone roommate in mind, please advise us when you sign up. You will NOT be permitted to room with your student.

***Please email Mr. Taylor if you are interested in being a chaperone for this trip! [ntaylor@vanburenschools.net](mailto:ntaylor@vanburenschools.net)***

# COMMITMENT AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Below is the breakdown of the monthly payments through October 1, 2023. It is imperative that all funds are paid in full by October 1st so all final payments can be made towards our trip. You may certainly still make payments anytime during any month, and we highly encourage you to make more frequent smaller payments toward your student's account. Below are the nine monthly payments you should plan to make. While many of you will fundraise, we are asking please for the initial payment of \$250.00 (or more) by March 1<sup>st</sup>. **We will know you and your child(ren) are committing to this amazing experience by submitting the first payment by March 1, 2023.**

1. \$250.00 by Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>
2. \$250.00 by Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>
3. \$250.00 by Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>
4. \$250.00 by Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>
5. \$250.00 by Friday July 1<sup>st</sup>
6. \$250.00 by Friday August 1<sup>st</sup>
7. \$250.00 by Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>
8. \$250.00 by Friday, October. 1<sup>st</sup>

The Band Boosters will be handling ALL of the payments for this trip and will also handle all of your fundraising credit.

*Please make sure you are on the Boosters email list to get up-to-date info on fund raising!  
If you are not, contact [bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com) to make sure you get put on that list.  
The Boosters send out information weekly regarding fundraising opportunities!*

Any questions regarding your student's account should be directed to Amy at [bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com).

**BAND BOOSTER PAYMENT METHODS:** Please make sure you add your student's name when making EVERY payment. Please DO NOT choose "goods or services" when making electronic payments! You will be responsible for any fees that are incurred! ***Checks are NOT accepted.***

## **Fee-free payment options:**

- **Cash/Money Order:** Delivered to the Band Directors in a clearly marked envelope with your student's name.
- **Venmo:** @BelleBand-Booster (include your student's name and "Florida Trip" in memo)
- **CashApp:** \$blvlbandbooster (include your student's name and "Florida Trip" in memo)
- **PayPal:** [bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com) (remember to choose Friends & Family & include your student's name and "Florida Trip" in memo)

## **Payment options with fees:**

- **Credit Card Payments:** Please email [bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com) to have an electronic invoice sent to you for a desired credit card payment amount. This will incur a fee of 2.9% + 30 cents per transaction and must be paid within 7 days of receipt.
- **ACH Payments:** This will be deducted directly from your checking or savings account. Please email [bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com) to have an electronic invoice sent to you for a desired amount. This will incur a fee of 1% + \$1 per transaction and must be paid within 7 days of receipt.