

October 15, 2018

Dear Parents of Belleville Marching Band Students:

It gives me great pleasure to announce officially that the Belleville High School Marching Band has been selected to participate in the college bowl game, The Outback Bowl, in Tampa Florida on January 1, 2020. The invitation allows us the opportunity to perform during the Outback Bowl half-time along with several other high school bands and performing ensembles from throughout the United States in a nationally televised setting. Besides the bowl game, the band will perform in the Outback Bowl Parade in Ybor City. Other Non-performing activities will include one day in Universal Studios Islands of Adventure, one day at Disney's Magic Kingdom, Busch Gardens on New Year's Eve, and the Atlantic Ocean at Clearwater/St. Petersburg Beaches. This is an opportunity that seldom comes along in a lifetime.

The trip will take place from **Friday, December 27, 2019, through Thursday, January 2, 2020**, and includes two days in Orlando at Disney and Universal Studios as well as the half-time performance in Tampa. The trip cost total is **\$1475.00**. This includes charter bus transportation, hotels, entry to all events/activities, an official Outback Bowl t-shirt, and most meals except some lunches, and any meals while in transit (these will be better outlined in the itinerary to come at a later date).

Students may either pay the total cost outright or in monthly installments. It is imperative that should you sign up to participate in this trip that you can make all payments by November 1, **2019**. (a year from now!) The strict payment guidelines are set up by the tour company **Brightspark Travel**, (their letter attached) and require you to have all funds submitted by this date. The Belleville Bands are handling NO money for this trip as all payments are being made through Brightspark. The attached letter from Brightspark gives you access to register for the trip, make payments, and answer any questions you may have about your account with them.

There will be several opportunities to defray the cost of the trip by participating in one or more fundraisers organized by our Belleville Band Boosters. (This includes current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as well!) That credit will be communicated and deposited with Brightspark throughout the year of fundraising for this trip. This trip is a 100% volunteer opportunity. No current member will be penalized if you do not attend. However, if you feel that you cannot follow the payment plan attached, **DO NOT SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE**. On the following pages from Brightspark, there is an **optional** "money back guarantee" insurance fee of \$149.00, should there be any reason you no longer wish to attend the trip. In short, if you pay \$800.00 in the trip, and your child breaks their leg, or a family issue arises, you are guaranteed your \$800.00 back. Small price to pay for \$12.00 a month!

As always, if we don't have enough adult chaperones to attend this trip, we obviously wouldn't be able to go. If you are interested in being a chaperone, additional information is included in this packet.

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  
Director of Bands

Michael Campbell  
Associate Director of Bands

## **Chaperone Interest Information Florida 2019-2020**

Thank you for your interest in being a chaperone for this trip to Florida. Because past experience has proved that our adult chaperones attend these trips to take part in a “vacation,” I want to be very clear on a couple of items.

### **These trips are:**

- Exhausting, more for the adults than the students. You will be riding the bus down, and will be tired when you arrive. Sleep does not come easy; you will do your best to take cat naps throughout the trip.
- 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 6 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 mention above, it’s not your vacation! You are choosing to be a chaperone because you want the students to have the best experience...not so you can sit by the pool! These unfortunately are not an option for the adults on this trip!
- Often stressful when students become ill/tired. We have to play babysitter often, but this can go in shifts with many chaperones.
- Extremely rewarding for our kids. We can help encourage this by being positive and outgoing, and being able to go with the flow however it may. 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 are qualities (as you can probably figure out) that have been some of our larger issues in the past trips. If you are interested in helping ensure our students a rewarding trip by offering them guidance, safety, nurturing, and can lead by example, then we would enjoy your signing up for chaperone.

Unfortunately, chaperones do not get a discount for this trip, however you do get your own bed to sleep in! **\$1475.00 is your cost as well.** Please plan to make the same payment deadlines as the students.

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