

**John F. Kennedy High School Bands**  
**Walter Avellaneda, Director**  
**wavellaneda@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us**  
**(516)-992-1441**

September 15, 2015

Dear Parents of the JFK Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band:

This letter is to inform you that plans are underway for a Spring Music Tour this school year to the Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida! A performance tour is designed for students to experience performing a full concert in front of a live audience on a Disney World Stage. Some of the finest high school and professional ensembles perform at Disney World and it is an experience that your child will never forget. In addition, students will also take part in a dynamic workshop with Disney World Artists. As in our past Disney trips, we will take part in the "You're Instrumental!" film scoring and student leadership workshop. Students will work with a professional Disney studio-conductor and recording engineer and perform music to some of Disney's most renowned movies. This workshop is by far the very best workshop offered to HS musicians in the country.

As evident from our past trips (this will be our 3rd time in Disney) the musical goals that are set for every student created a wonderful atmosphere in our rehearsals and fostered new friendships among all the students. It truly is an experience that your child will remember fondly in their high school years.

The dates for this trip are **Thursday, March 31 through Sunday, April 3rd**. The students will be missing Thursday & Friday of that school week. We will be leaving leaving quite early Thursday morning and returning Sunday night. The cost of this trip is \$1350 which is usually the standard cost for a trip of this distance. On the bottom of the enclosed itinerary you will find an inclusions list to see what the cost of the trip covers. In addition, there are some costs that are not covered. These items are also explained in the 2013 sample itinerary.

**Fundraising:** For a trip of this size the band program will be providing three fundraisers that students can use to offset the cost of the trip. This year we will be selling Fall Wrapping Paper, Yankee Candles and Frozen Cookie Dough. There are no "group" fundraisers. Student profit is deducted from the cost of the trip prior to the next payment date. I must also inform you of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District policy regarding field trips and fundraising:

***"If a trip is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances which are beyond the district's control, parents shall be advised that it is possible that moneys will not be fully refunded." As a result, it is STRONGLY ADVISED that students fundraise a minimum of \$200 (profit) to allay costs. Also, please be informed that fundraising does not guarantee that the total money required will be raised.***

A sample itinerary is enclosed from our 2013 trip. Once we receive our performance and workshop times I will post a final itinerary on the band website. However, all of the amenities that students received in our previous trip will be the same as the 2013 trip. All parents will be given a final itinerary with contact phone numbers and addresses at the mandatory parents meeting a few weeks before the trip, (dates to be announced).

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As in years past we will be using e-mail list-serves for the added convenience of communication. At the end of this contract, you will be asked to supply an e-mail address which will be added to the web serve upon receipt of your deposit. This will ensure that the few deposit reminders, and fundraiser and any other announcements regarding this trip will reach you efficiently- making all transactions as smooth and timely as possible. ***Students participating in the tour MUST follow the RemindMe account for up-to-date information.*** I would also encourage you to bookmark our band website (jfkhsband.weebly.com) where up-to-date trip information can be found. You can also view the Remind feeds on our website.

All of this being said, this truly will be a wonderful experience for your child. The musical value that is attained is very enriching and the bonding experience they will come away with will be something that they will cherish for the rest of their lives. However, all of this takes a *tremendous* amount of work to put together. The amount of work that goes into putting this experience together for your child is enormous. Even with the help of student workers, which started in September and will not stop until April 2 when we arrive home, it would be extremely helpful if not one person were late for single payment or fundraising due date. By doing this, it would alleviate a lot of unnecessary aggravation. I hope you can be understanding of this and thereby cooperative. If any issues arise please contact me at any time.

As with any musical ensemble we can only perform at our highest level with the correct instrumentation. If the instrumentation falls too low, we will be forced to cancel. A nonrefundable \$100 deposit and signed contract are due by Friday the 16th. If the instrumentation is too low at this time I will not cash in your checks. Even if your child is absent on the 16th, these forms must be handed in that day. There will be no exceptions. Deposits may be made in cash or by check made out to JFK BAND. *Bus seating is first come/first seated so please be aware there is a minimum of 40 students and a maximum of 49 students at this moment so it is very possible that the seats are filled by the 16th. In addition, due to very strict Disney performance regulations we must have "balanced" band. Your child will have a better understanding of this concept from my presentation today.*

A payment schedule is also attached. Please mark the dates on your calendar. In addition, students will receive an invoice two weeks prior to payments being due with all pertinent financial information on it. Please review it carefully before sending in your payment.

After deposits are collected and the trip is up and running you will be sent several forms on-line to fill out with all pertinent medical and contact information. Please make sure you add [wavellaneda@bmchsd.org](mailto:wavellaneda@bmchsd.org) to your contact files.

I am looking forward to an extremely positive, fun, and educational trip. Thank you in advance for making the business aspects of this trip run as smoothly as possible for us, and please feel free to call or e-mail me any time with questions or concerns. I am hoping that with your help this will be another great musical tour!

Sincerely,

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