

*Colbert Heights High School
Pride of the Mountain Wildcat Marching Band
2023 Orlando Trip Frequently Asked Questions*

Who is performing?

The 2022 Wildcat Marching Band members. Unfortunately, this does not include the newest members to audition to be a part of the 2023 Guard and Majorette lines.

Will there be fundraisers for my student(s) to raise their own money to pay for the trip?

Yes! We will have 4 individualized fundraisers for students to offset costs of the trip (See Payment Plan for more information). Each student has their own spreadsheet that outlines how much they owe, how much they raised through fundraisers, and how much they have paid outright. If you ever want an update on your student's spreadsheet, just email the band director jkirk@colbert.k12.al.us.

How many people are there per room?

The most affordable option is to have 4 to a room (max capacity per room). There are more expensive options if you choose to be in a room with less people (1-3. See the Payment Plan for more information).

Can we have more than 4 people in a room?

No. Hotel and trip policy. If your entire family is joining, they might need to split up between rooms to not exceed capacity.

Can I choose who to room with?

Yes and no. There will be strict guidelines for roommates (including girls and boys separation). There will be a sign up list for you to write down your preferences, but Mrs. Kirk will have the last say on who will be rooming together. I know many families will want to room together. I will do the best I can for the best overall rooming assignments!

What meals do we need to plan to pay for?

Like on the packing list, **You will need money for 4 (fast food) meals total!** Breakfast is included with our hotel, and we will have **2 group dinners** included in our trip (Hard Rock Cafe and Planet Hollywood). While in Universal, we will receive meal vouchers (**4 \$15 meals**). As prices have risen, it might be a good idea to bring some extra money for meals inside the park if you would like snacks or a larger meal. Depending on how much you eat, \$50-\$80 should be *plenty* to cover you. Remember, you can bring water bottles and snacks into the parks to save money if desired.

Can we eat somewhere else during the group dinner?

No. Students are to join the rest of the band for all group dinners just like the other group activities in the itinerary. See the itinerary for more information.

Can students order food to their hotel room like pizza?

Maybe; only for special circumstances. You need to ask permission from the band director BEFORE you order anything. No leaving your room after curfew, so someone would need to bring food to you if anything is delivered afterwards.

I want to drive separately from the bus. Can my band student ride with us?

On the way to Orlando and throughout the trip, your student is to be with the rest of the band (including riding on the charter bus) as per Board policy. The student is to participate in all scheduled activities explained in the itinerary. There is a possibility that once the trip has commenced, you might be allowed to check out your student and stay in Orlando longer or have them ride back to Colbert Heights with you. TBD.

We are at the parks for a while. Can we leave to do something else in Orlando if we have a chaperone?

No. All students and chaperones on this trip are guests on this trip and to adhere to the itinerary. See the itinerary for more information.

What if there is an emergency and I need to leave my hotel room after curfew?

There are security guards posted outside in the halls. Have one escort you to the Band Director. If it is a dire emergency, Dial 911 before finding the band director. Please do not leave premises without informing the Band Director.

Can my student bring their over-the-counter medication for headaches and/or allergies?

If the band director sees anyone with medication, it may be confiscated. To register any over-the-counter or prescription medication, please see the school nurse 2 weeks PRIOR TO the trip. All registered medication must be administered by the band director or parent/Guardian. This does not include personal Epi-pens or inhalers which can be kept on the student's person.

It looks like there will be many late nights and early mornings. Will my student be allowed to skip some things to get to the hotel sooner in the evening or leave the hotel later in the morning?

No. It will be tiring, but students are to try and get as much sleep as possible while at the to minimize fatigue. Being worn out by the end of the day will encourage students to go straight to sleep instead of staying up until 3AM. Students are to adhere to the itinerary unless there are VERY special circumstances.

Can students bring a pillow/blanket for the bus?

They can if they want. Take into consideration limited space.

Do students go to classes on Monday, May 8th?

Yes, they will need to collect any review materials for exams approaching. We do not leave until the evening. Call time will be 4:30 PM.

I am concerned that my student will be unsafe during this trip. How do I know they will be taken care of?

Great question. Traveling outside of the state always has its risks, and it can be uncomfortable for some students/parents. We will be in top-of-the-line charters with professional drivers. We will have PLENTY of chaperones (some of whom have experience in Healthcare and services alike). We will have a personal security team hired by the hotel to take care of us while at the hotel. We will have a system that ensures a chaperone is with students at all times. We have a TIGHT schedule that keeps everyone busy and out of trouble. You can download apps to track your students' location. You can contact the band director at any time to check up on your student. You can befriend another parent who is going on this trip and ask them to take care of your student. There is always some amount of risk no matter where you go. But this might be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for your student.