



Rockville High School Music Department
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September, 2014

Dear Parents & Students,

We are pleased to announce that 2015 RHS Music Department Spring Trip will be to **Nashville, Tennessee!** Dates for this year's trip are **March 26th – March 29th, 2015**. Students who participate in this trip will miss one day of school. Although the school will consider this absence excused, students are still responsible for all missed work while on the trip.

Students who decide to participate in this trip will be given the opportunity to promote the RHS music program and gain invaluable performance experience by performing for the Nashville community and several world-renowned music educators. We plan to take a concert band, a string orchestra, a jazz ensemble, and a chorus to perform and participate in clinics with local university faculty. Students will also have the opportunity to experience cultural and entertainment activities while on the trip, including the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Nashville Zoo, The Hermitage, a showboat cruise, the Parthenon and the Grand Ole Opry.

Estimated Costs per person are \$700, based on quad occupancy for students and double occupancy for chaperones. Prices will increase for lower occupancies. Final prices are dependent upon how many buses we need, and will be announced in mid-November, after we know how many people are going. While this price may seem higher compared to previous trips, please keep in mind that this trip is all-inclusive. Based on feedback from previous trips, we wanted to setup this trip so that once you have paid your trip fee you can travel without bringing any additional money! You may want to consider purchasing your own travel insurance in the case that the trip is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. If you wish to purchase travel insurance, you must make the arrangements and pay the cost. The price of the trip includes:

- Roundtrip bus transportation from RHS to Nashville.
- All necessary bus transportation while in Nashville.
- Three nights of hotel accommodations at the Embassy Suites Nashville-South/Cool Springs.
 - Address: 820 Crescent Centre Dr, Franklin, TN 37067, Phone: 615-515-5151
- Admission to all sites that the group visits.
- ALL meals!
- Clinic from some of the nation's best music educators.
- Commemorative trip DVD with photos and performances from the trip.
- All hotel taxes and gratuities.
- A trip t-shirt (that will double as your performance uniform)

With the cooperation of FORM, several fundraisers have already taken place, and more will be held throughout the year to help fund the cost of this trip. You may want to also consider soliciting donations from family, friends and local businesses to help fund your trip. The bottom line is that we do not want to leave any student home because of a financial issue! Please speak to one of us as soon as possible so we can help you find the resources to participate in this trip! All conversations will be kept confidential.

Students will be expected to follow all MCPS and RHS rules for the duration of the trip. Consequences will be assigned according to RHS and MCPS policy, and may include an immediate return home at the student's/parent's expense. Also, students must not have outstanding school financial obligations in order to go on this trip. For more information about financial obligations, please contact Mrs. Rager, RHS Financial Secretary, at 301-517-8293.

There will be a trip orientation in early March for students and parents, where we will provide final details and information about dealing with potential emergency situations. We will be using a phone/text tree for emergency situations while on the trip, and we will utilize the Remind texting service to provide updates during the trip.

continued

Attached to this letter you will find a preliminary itinerary and an interest form. Additional information about the trip, including the payment schedule, can be found at the RHS Music Department website (www.rockvillemusic.org). Please take the time to look over everything, and return the interest form with a **\$100 deposit** to Mr. Barnes or Mr. Johnson **no later than Friday, October 3rd**. If you plan to participate as a chaperone, please note that on the interest form and include a separate deposit. Chaperones will be expected to help supervise students and help move music equipment when needed. We are hoping to be able to offer a lower cost for chaperones. We will offer that information as soon as it becomes available.

We certainly hope that you can join us in Nashville this March!

Musically yours,

Phil Barnes
Director of Bands & Orchestras

Ron Johnson
Director of Choral & Vocal Activities

Rockville High School Music Department
Spring Trip 2015 – Nashville, Tennessee
Preliminary Itinerary

Thursday, March 26

5:30am Meet at RHS. Load buses.
6:00am Depart RHS for Nashville. Lunch stop en route.
7:00pm Arrive in Nashville. Dinner at Rainforest Café and shopping at OpryMills Mall.
9:00pm Check in to hotel.
11:00pm Lights out.

Friday, March 27

7:00am Breakfast at hotel.
9:00am Tour and performance at The Hermitage.
11:30am Lunch and show aboard the General Jackson Showboat.
3:00pm Visit the Parthenon.
5:00pm Dinner at BB King's Blues Club.
7:00pm Attend performance at the Grand Ole Opry.
9:00pm Return to hotel.
11:00pm Lights out.

Saturday, March 28

7:00am Breakfast at hotel.
9:00am Performance Clinics.
12:30pm Lunch at Hard Rock Café.
2:00pm Visit Country Music Hall of Fame.
4:00pm Visit Nashville Zoo.
7:00pm Dinner & Entertainment at Dave & Buster's
10:00pm Return to hotel.
11:00pm Lights out.

Sunday, March 29

6:00am Breakfast at hotel.
7:00am Check out of hotel and load buses.
8:00am Depart Nashville for RHS. Lunch and dinner stops en route.
10:00pm Arrive at RHS.

Rockville High School Music Department
Spring Trip 2015 – Nashville, Tennessee
Preliminary Interest Form

DUE WITH A \$100 (PER PERSON) DEPOSIT BY FRIDAY 10/3!

Student Name: _____

_____ I ***would like*** to travel with the RHS Music Department to Nashville in 2015.

_____ I ***do not*** plan to travel with the RHS Music Department to Nashville in 2015 because:

_____ I have a parent would like to serve as a chaperone for the trip. Names are listed below:

Parent Signature

Date