

Basalt Bands 2018 New Orleans Trip

Information Packet

Contents:

- Cover Letter
- Itinerary
- Parent Letter from Brightspark Travel
- RGP (trip insurance) flyer

Basalt Band Family,

Please review the following information regarding the 2018 New Orleans Trip. I will be presenting this information to students during classes. Please don't hesitate to call or email with your questions.

Dates

The trip dates will be March 18th-23rd, 2018. This is the week before next year's Spring Break so students will have a week off of school after the trip to catch up on the schoolwork that they missed.

Cost

The trip cost will be between \$1300 and \$1400. The specifics of the trip cost are outlined in the "Parent Letter from BrightSpark Travel". The cost will fluctuate some depending on how many students and chaperones register.

What is included in the cost?

The trip cost covers all transportation, hotels, admittance to museums/etc, breakfasts and dinners. Students will be given \$10 for lunches so they may need additional spending money if they go over the \$10. There are no 'hidden costs'. Students may want additional spending money for snacks, souvenirs, etc.

Payment Schedule

All payments will be made directly to Brightspark Travel. Instructions for signing up and making payments are located in the "Parent Letter from Brightspark Travel". Remember that as the price may fluctuate slightly, so will the payment amounts. The payment schedule is as follows:

March 15th, 2017 - \$100 deposit
April 14th, 2017 - \$250 payment
June 1st, 2017 - \$250 payment
September 30th, 2017 - \$250 payment
November 30th, 2017 - \$250 payment
January 30th, 2018 - \$250 payment

Fundraising

Our first fundraising was kicked off on 2/14/17. This sale includes frozen cookies, Bob's Red Mill, and Longhorn BaSalsa. All orders and money are due on March 3rd, 2017. 40% of each student's sales will be deposited into their Trip Account. We plan to run another organized fundraiser this spring, as well as one or two more next fall.

We have also been encouraging students to think creatively about how to raise funds for the trip. These ideas have included: dog walking, babysitting, snow shoveling, lawn mowing, bake sales, car washing, etc.

Trip Accounts

All band students have a Trip Account with the Band Boosters. Any fundraising that they have done while in band has put money into their trip accounts. The Band Boosters will send this money directly to Brightspark. Trip account money will be sent to Brightspark several times, as we continue to fundraise for the trip. The first payment/deposit, however, will be your responsibility to pay without the funds in the trip account. By next week, I will have up-to-date balances of each student's trip account. Students and parents are welcome to inquire about their balance.

Chaperones

We will definitely need parent chaperones! Ideally, we need at least one chaperone for every eight students. While I wish it could be discounted or free, chaperones also need to pay for their trip! Chaperones will 'sign up' the same way that students do; by following the instructions on the "Brightspark Travel Parent Letter".

I am so excited about the itinerary for this trip! New Orleans is such a culturally rich city, especially for music. This will be a very educational and enriching experience for our students to learn about the birthplace of American Jazz, street music, the "second line" music traditions, and so much more! Our BHS StreetHorns group was born out of the traditions of New Orleans street music. I sincerely hope that ALL of next year's BHS band students will go on this trip.

Please don't hesitate to call or email me with questions. I will answer them all to the best of my ability and if I don't know the answer, I will work hard to find it for you.

Thank you,
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