



Pickens High School Bands

500 Dragon Drive Jasper, GA 30143

706-253-1800, x545

RE: Chicago Trip

Dates: November 20-24, 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

We are going to Chicago during the week of November 20-24, 2018! I am very excited about this trip. I've been to Chicago many times, but never with a marching band! This parade gets national coverage on WGN Chicago and it is a FUN parade from all of the directors I have spoken to about it! **I hope that you will commit to the marching band next year and also commit to being part of this trip!**

The itinerary is still being developed, but will look similar to this outline.

Tuesday, November 20: Overnight bus travel to Chicago starting at 8pm from PHS

Wednesday, November 21: Arrive at hotel around 8:30am, Aquarium visit, lunch at Rock 'N Roll McDonald's or Portillo's, the Chicago Gangster Tour, Trolley Tour of Chicago, check in at Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Formal Dinner and Dance Party!

Thursday, November 22: Breakfast at hotel, Parade performance day, lunch at hotel, Skydeck Chicago, Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Cruise, shopping on the Magnificent Mile (Michigan Ave.)

Friday, November 23: Visit Millennium Park, pictures at "The Bean", visit the Lincoln Park Zoo, Lunch at Navy Pier, visit to Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Money Museum, visit to Museum of Science and Industry, dinner at Gino's East, prepare for travel home

Saturday, November 24: Home to Jasper around 10am.

This trip may be a once-in-a-lifetime event for many of our students. The parade alone is a HUGE event. You should really check out the website from last year to see what is involved. <https://www.chicagofestivals.org/>

We are using the official travel company for this parade, Group Travel Planners. The cost of the trip is determined by the company to cover all admittances to the events in which we participate, the buses, hotel and more. There are only a few meals that students will cover out of pocket. **Payments may start as soon as you'd like them to start, but must stay current with the payment plan as well. The total cost of the trip is \$925.00 each.**

- \$200.00 deposit- due on or before Thursday, February 1.
- \$100.00 payment- due on or before Thursday, March 1
- \$100.00 payment- due on or before Tuesday, April 3.
- \$200.00 payment- due on or before Tuesday, May 1.
- \$100.00 payment- due on or before Wednesday, August 1
- \$100.00 payment- due on or before Friday, September 7
- Remainder due (\$125.00) in full- due on or before Friday, September 28

All accounts have to be current and we cannot make payment plans for this trip that cause the payments to extend past the start of the trip. We have to pay the company in three installments so all accounts must be current when we pay. **IF YOU OWE MONEY TO THE BAND, YOU MUST HAVE THAT PAID IN FULL BEFORE TRIP PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHARMS ACCOUNT BEFORE YOU COMMIT! Payments may be made by check, money order, debit, credit or Paypal- slight fee for card payments.**

*Refunds will only be allowed along the guidelines of the travel company.
Mr. Oubre has a copy of this if you'd like to see it.*

Rooms will be booked at four to a room and chaperones are two to a room. Buses are standard industry charter buses through a company booked by the travel agents. (We will NOT use the company we used in NYC/Philly)

Keep in mind that **we want the entire marching band** to be on this trip. To truly represent our group, we need everyone involved. However, I know that it isn't possible for every family to do this. Family members are invited to come if they choose to pay for it and I will let you know how many chaperones are needed based on the number that commit to the trip- there will be a limit of 108 on this trip. All adults paying to go with us on the buses for the trip will be expected to work as chaperones.

The band fees are also due during this time (\$100 in March and the rest by May 18. The trip is a separate cost from marching band fees. The marching band fees pay for camp only. Band fees will remain the same as last year.

If there are any questions, please email (michaeloubre@pickenscountyschools.org) or call Mr. Oubre at 706-253-1800 x 545. Email is the best way to contact Mr. Oubre- please do not use Facebook Messenger or text him with questions about the trip.