



District Service Center
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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Members of the School Board
Keith Jacobus, Ph.D., Superintendent

FROM: Jennifer Thomas, Office Coordinator for Assistant Superintendents for Academic Excellence and Accountability Mike Johnson, Julie Nielsen & Kristine Schaefer

DATE: November 14, 2019

TOPIC/PURPOSE OF REPORT: Extended Field Trips

REFERENCE TO POLICY/STRATEGIC PLAN: Policy 610, Field Trips

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION: Approval

DATE FOR BOARD ACTION: November 21, 2019

REPORT

The following extended field trips have been submitted for approval per Policy #610:

- **January 11-12, 2020:** Woodbury High School Swim and Dive Team – 30 students and 5 adult supervisors will travel to Duluth, MN. via district busses and they will be staying at The Comfort Inn Suites Canal Park. The students will participate in a swim meet. **(Connor Ross)**
- **April 1-5, 2020:** East Ridge High School Orchestras – 30 students and 6 adult supervisors will travel to New York City, NY. Travel arrangements are made by Good News Tour and Travel Company. They will fly via Delta airlines and travel within New York City via Coach bus. They will be staying at the LaQuinta Suites in Clifton, NJ. Purpose of trip and itinerary is attached. **(Kelly DeMorett)**

Purpose and Educational Value of the Trip:

Throughout many years of traveling with musical ensembles, both as a student and then as a teacher, I have realized that experiencing the world's great ensembles, concert halls and musicians is a far more educational and musical experience than performing in some type of for-profit music festival or in the lobby of a museum for people just passing by.

In March of 2014 I took the East Ridge, Park and Woodbury HS Orchestras on our first ever non-playing tour and the response was overwhelmingly positive. On that tour, students heard three (Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra and New York Philharmonic) of the "Big Five" (the top five ranked orchestras in the United States). My fear that students would be bored after one or two orchestral concert nights in a row was quickly replaced with the joy of seeing engaging conversations about the performances they heard, students making comparisons between the ensembles, critical analysis of the performances and even discussion about the poor behavior they observed from other audience members and how disgusted they were that "people would act that way" during a [New York Philharmonic] concert!

When I began researching tour opportunities for the spring of 2020 I looked for an opportunity to experience multiple ensembles again, but in just one city to decrease transportation time and time away from school. The New York Philharmonic happened to be playing Shostakovich's 5th Symphony, which is a favorite of the ERHS Seniors who played the piece as 10th graders. The soloist for the concert series that weekend with the NY Phil happened to be Joshua Bell, arguably the best violinist in the world. As a side note, Joshua Bell also plays on a Stradivarius violin---many students will be excited to actually see a real Stradivarius violin! The New York Philharmonic performs at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. We will learn about the history of this hall (as well as Carnegie Hall) before leaving on tour and students will take an in-depth "behind the scenes" tour of these major concert halls.

Because New York City is a mecca for the performing arts, many major US Symphony Orchestras tour to perform at Carnegie Hall each year. In fact, nearly every week a major US orchestra performs at Carnegie Hall. The weekend of our trip we are fortunate that the Philadelphia Orchestra---another of the "Big 5"---is performing. Students will have the opportunity to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra perform works by Beethoven (again, some of the same works have been performed by our students) and will be able to experience the famous Carnegie Hall!

Students will also have an opportunity to visit several historic sites, including Ellis Island/Statute of Liberty and the 911 Memorial and Museum. We will also see Broadway Musical, Frozen. Many of our orchestra students are involved in the ERHS Theater program and/or have played in the Pit Orchestra so are looking forward to the opportunity to see a Broadway production and learn more about playing for Broadway shows.