



Olathe East Band New York City – April 12th to 15th

Our trip is almost here! Over a year of planning, preparation, fundraising, rehearsing, and anticipation have gone into our trip. At every step along the way, we've planned for this to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience of music, education, and fun. The information in this packet is designed to help you get the most out of our trip! It's also here to help everyone know exactly what the expectations are for each participant. Please read and be sure you understand the information included in this packet.

Photo I.D

It is critical that students bring the exact ID that they gave us earlier in the semester. We made a copy of their ID and that is the name that their plane ticket was purchased with. We had an issue on our last trip where a student could find that ID and just brought a different one that didn't match his plane ticket. Security will not let you on the plane without an ID that matches your plane ticket.

Baggage

Each participant will be able to bring one suitcase. **With weight restrictions your suitcase needs to be less than 50 pounds! If it is over 50 pounds you will have to pay for the fees out of your own pocket before you can board the plane.** You may also bring one bag or backpack with you that is your personal item for the plane, but that will need to be with you in your seat on the plane so plan accordingly for size.

Here are the links to size restrictions for each airline we are using:

Southwest

- Here is the carry-on policy with size limits: <https://support.southwest.com/helpcenter/s/article/carryon-baggage-policy>
- Here is the checked bag policy with size limits: <https://support.southwest.com/helpcenter/s/article/checked-baggage-policy>

United

- Here is the United-carry on policy with size limits: <https://www.united.com/en/us/flv/baggage/carry-on-bags.html>
- Here is the United checked bag policy with links to bag limits and fees: <https://www.united.com/en/us/flv/baggage/checked-bags.html>

Keep in mind that any souvenirs that you purchase must fit in your suitcase or backpack for the ride home. If both bags are stuffed on the way out this could cause problems on the way home. Flutes and clarinets will be packing their instruments in either their personal item (backpack, small bag) or in their suitcase so plan accordingly.

Instrument Transportation

It is our suggestion that all Flutes, Piccolo, and Clarinets carefully pack their instruments inside their suitcase. If you have a wood clarinet and are worried about it being in the luggage hold of the plane which is not temperature controlled, you should pack your instrument in your carry-on backpack. That will provide additional protection for those instruments. If it is in your suitcase, make sure to pack it carefully so it is surrounded by clothes. The following instruments will be loaded on to a van that is being driven to New York by a band parent: Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Contra-bass clarinet, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, French Horn, Trombones, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion.

If you are on the Southwest flight, you are allowed 2 checked items, so you will check a suitcase and your trumpet or alto sax. If you are on the United flight, you will put your trumpet or alto sax in the equipment van as you are not provided a second bag check by the airline. Checking these trumpets and alto saxes on the Southwest flight will help us fit everything we need into one equipment van.

It is important to make sure you have a good functioning case with latches that work so that your instrument is not damaged in transport. For students whose instrument is going in the equipment van, we will load it on Wednesday morning April 10th during first hour. You will not have access to your instrument again until we get to NYC.

If you have a high-quality instrument you are concerned about, I encourage you to add insurance coverage; the most common way is through a rider on homeowner's/renter's insurance policies.

Uniforms

Anyone choosing to wear a tux needs to go through the following checklist as you pack, making sure you include these items:

Tux shirt, Tux jacket, Tux pants, Bow tie, Black cummerbund, Black socks crew length only (not ankle length), Black shoes (no black tennis shoes, use/borrow marching shoes if you need to).

Ladies wearing a concert dress, please make sure you have appropriate black shoes/nylons for our performance. Flip-flops, for example, are not appropriate. Nylons are not required for ladies but if you choose to wear them, please wear black. We plan to put tuxedos in the equipment van to help keep the suitcases from going overweight. We will load them into the van on Wednesday, April 10th. Please address any uniform issues as soon as possible!

Sight-seeing

We will be spending a significant amount of time on foot. Appropriate footwear will be very important in your ability to keep up with the rest of your group and enjoy your time at the parks. Sandals and flip-flops are not good options. Most importantly do not forget to bring sunscreen! Remember that once we leave the hotel each morning, we will not be returning until late at night so bring everything with you that you will need. You will need to think and plan ahead for your clothing each day. Weather that time of year on the East Coast can fluctuate so please dress in layers so you can add or take off clothes to be comfortable and pay attention to the forecast. The average high is 67 and the average low is 43, so it will feel cool in the evening after the sun goes down.

Spending money and meals

How much do you need? It all depends on your eating and shopping habits. Below is a list of meals broken out by day detailing which are included in the price of the trip, and which are not. You will also need money (and packing space!) for any souvenirs, shopping, etc. It is advised not to carry large sums of money. Ladies should carry your purse with the strap across your body. Gentlemen should carry some cash in your wallet and some in one of your front pockets. Drink lots of water to keep yourself hydrated. No one wants to travel that far to be sick, take care of yourself by eating a good breakfast and staying away from a lot of pop/energy drinks.

Friday

- Breakfast - bring food with you in your personal bag. There are not good food options in the KC airport so best to not rely on being able to purchase something to eat.
- Lunch - \$20 Visa gift card provided
- Dinner - Group dinner at Iguana

Saturday

- Breakfast - provided at hotel
- Lunch - Sub sandwich box lunch provided as part of the cost of the trip
- Dinner - Group dinner at John's Pizzeria

Sunday

- Breakfast - provided at the hotel
- Lunch - meal voucher to use at Liberty Island or Ellis Island is included
- Dinner - Group dinner at La Nonna

Sunday

- Breakfast - provided at the hotel
- Lunch - \$20 Visa gift card provided
- Dinner - early dinner at airport **at your expense**

Emergency Contacts

If problems arise, the first person you should always contact is your chaperone (they will give you their cell numbers before we board the buses to leave Olathe East). They will then contact either Mr. Smikahl, Mrs. Fillingham or the nurse depending on the situation. Mr. Smikahl: 913-522-1449 Mrs. Fillingham: 816-830-9649

Trip Rules

Traveling with a large group is different than traveling alone or with family. A trip of this magnitude requires much planning and coordination to run smoothly. By observing the following rules, our trip will be an enjoyable experience for everyone.

Students who make choices in conflict with these rules are subject to disciplinary action both while on the trip and after returning to school. Consequences for such choices while on the trip can range from reassignment of bus seats, chaperone groups, or confinement to their hotel room while on scheduled activities. No refunds will be issued to students who miss paid activities for disciplinary reasons. Consequences upon returning to school can include detention, suspension, and removal from the Olathe East Band program. In some cases, the severity of student behavior choices may warrant the student being dismissed from the trip and sent home immediately. This is at the discretion of Mr. Smikahl and Dr. Wolgast. If a student is dismissed from the trip, that student's parents are responsible for the cost of the student's return flight and any related expenses.

MOST importantly, always display total class and utmost respect for our tour guides, bus drivers, chaperones, clinicians, and anyone else with whom we interact. **NEVER** use inappropriate language, wear inappropriate dress, or conduct yourself in a manner that is less than what is expected every day at Olathe East. **You are ambassadors for our band program, our school, our community, and for yourselves.** Simple things like manners, common respect, and good sense will go a long way. Keep it Classy!

1. Students are under the direct supervision of Mr. Smikahl, Mrs. Fillingham, Dr. Wolgast and the other adult chaperones at all times. They should remain courteous and follow directions precisely in order for the trip to run smoothly. Do not grumble and complain about minor things – with a group this large it is impossible to please everyone in every situation. Any insubordination toward any adult chaperone, tour guide, security guard, or other authority figures will carry immediate consequences, so avoid challenging their authority. Look for ways that you can be helpful!
2. Students who engage in activities that might endanger, injure, or cause harm to themselves, other students, or persons encountered on the trip may be suspended from participation of trip activities or **sent home at his/her own expense** on the next available flight. This includes any illegal activities such as shop lifting.
3. Every student in band was required to sign a form stating their awareness of the Olathe District Schools Substance Abuse Policy. Students participating in band are not permitted to use or possess tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or substances that are harmful or dangerous to their health. This policy will be strictly enforced on this trip. There will be **NO WARNINGS** – a first offense will result in a student being **sent home at his/her own expense** on the next available flight. **This includes vaping!**
4. While at our hotel, there will be common areas defined by Mr. Smikahl where boys and girls can hang out until it is curfew time. All students are assigned a hotel room. The only students ever allowed in your room are the roommates assigned to you by Mr. Smikahl. This policy is in effect at all times, with no exceptions. Failure to abide by this rule will result in one or more of the disciplinary actions listed above.
5. The hallways and stairwells are not common areas as large groups gathering in these areas can be disruptive to other guests. Please remember that we are not the only people using the hotel.
6. At the end of each day there will be a group meeting during which Mr. Smikahl will define the curfew for the evening. This may be adjusted depending on arrival time to the hotel and other factors. Once the curfew is set no students are to be out of their assigned hotel room between room check and 5 a.m. the next morning unless there is an emergency. Purchase any pop/snacks and load your ice bucket before curfew. We have hired security to patrol the hallways during the night, and chaperones will be patrolling as well to ensure the curfew is followed.
7. At the hotel before you check out of your room a chaperone must perform a walk-through inspection for neatness/damages. Any damages will be the financial responsibility of those staying in the room. After your room has been inspected proceed to the lobby with your luggage. Return your key to your chaperone and be ready to load the bus. This process is also designed to protect you from charges from the hotel you do not agree with.
8. While away from the hotel students are expected to travel with their chaperone **at all times**. If a student becomes separated from their chaperone, they should immediately contact their chaperone or Mr. Smikahl by phone. Failure to follow this rule may result in the student being removed from their chaperone group and traveling with Mr. Smikahl for future sight-seeing stops.
9. There are portions of the trip where we are on a tight schedule, and meals and activities must happen on schedule in order for our hosts to be able to accommodate such a large group of people. You should always

arrive 5 minutes earlier than the report time. Remember to factor in time for the elevator to move our large group between floors at the hotel. Please do not cause a disruption to our trip by being late.

10. **ALL** students will be expected to follow all applicable school rules and policies regarding contact and displays of affection. Repeated violation of this rule may result in students being separated and monitored by chaperones for the remainder of the trip.
11. Students will be held financially responsible for any damages or charges that occur as a result of their actions.
12. This list of rules cannot cover every conceivable situation that may be encountered. In any case, Mr. Smikahl and Mr. Taylor reserve the right to change or add special rules or policies as necessary to ensure the safety of all students.