

Lamar Consolidated High School Band



**The 2008 Band Trip to
Orlando, Florida**

March 12 – 16, 2008

**COST PER STUDENT:
\$950**

The 2008 Band Trip

Who, What, When, Where, Why...

AND IT COSTS HOW MUCH!?

This year marks the fourth year in the out of state trip rotation for the LCHS Mighty Mustang Band. This band has earned high honors in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Florida. But until you have experienced this unique event you will never understand the rationale for our participation in this activity.

If you are a band student or band parent, please pay close attention to the basic requirements:

- Band members who will participate in this trip must make serious musical, academic, personal, financial, disciplinary, and attendance commitments.
- Band parents who earn a chaperone position through volunteer hours must be able to travel well, keep up with the group, keep a sense of humor, enforce the rules, attend a scheduled chaperone-only meeting with Mr. Estrada.
- All trip members are to represent our school district and band department with HONOR, PRIDE, DISCIPLINE, UNITY, AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE at all times.
- People with personal agendas, poor work ethic and/or negative attitudes need not apply.
- Every band student who travels will gain a new sense of responsibility, ability to work with others, respect for our students' talents and some of the most wonderful memories of your lifetime.

Interested? Able to meet the basic requirements? Keep reading...

The Trip Philosophy

- This trip gives band members who qualify to participate an opportunity to perform and to put into practice the theories of instrumental music learned at school.
- Students and parents who participate will also learn about a sense of unity. This type of activity will help us learn and reinforce the connection between individual performance and behavior and their contribution to the overall well-being of the band.
- This trip will provide a positive musical and educational experience for everyone involved.
- Finally, this trip is an opportunity to build group and self-pride, respect, interpersonal communication skills, and fellowship.

Responsibilities

The Director:

- ◆ Plan and prepare music for rehearsal and performances
- ◆ Organize details of trip
- ◆ Enforce discipline
- ◆ Deal with students whose behavior/attitude are contrary to the stated trip regulations/philosophy and contrary to the best interests of the band.
- ◆ Assign rooms and buses
- ◆ Rule on eligibility of band students to participate in the trip and all of its activities

The Students:

- ❖ Understand the purpose for and commit themselves to the trip musically, mentally, and physically
- ❖ Exhibit a positive attitude and work ethic at all times
- ❖ Make **NO EXCUSES** for not following the rules
- ❖ Honor each competition rehearsal commitment
- ❖ Keep trip account up to date
- ❖ Understand that if the band student exhibits poor judgment throughout the school year and is involved in disciplinary actions and/or academic failure that they may be removed from the trip at the discretion of the director or the school administration

The Chaperones:

- Understand the trip philosophy and be a positive member of our trip family
- Provide support and understanding during our trip
- Approach your duties as an advisor
- NEVER make an exception to the rules/guidelines/agenda
- Assist with maintaining our schedule
- Report to your assigned chaperone duty on time
- Report any concerns/problems to Mr. Estrada immediately
- Get correct information from Mr. Estrada rather than from other chaperones
- Help keep everyone safe and secure
- Be consistent in your enforcement of the rules
- Enjoy the experience

Band Parents, Step-Parents, Guardians

- Support your child in their band activities during this trip
- Contact Mr. Estrada if you have any questions, payment problems, or personal concerns
- Make trip and fund-raiser payments on time and according to our guidelines

Trip Commitments

Participation in this type of musical event means a personal commitment of time, money, attitude, hard work and rehearsals.

Failure on a student's part to attend mandatory rehearsals or sectionals during the year may result in their removal from the trip. The only acceptable reasons for missing these mandatory rehearsals will be student's personal serious illness or death in the immediate family. **Any student removed from the trip will still be responsible for the complete cancellation fee.**

Students who:

- are not positive members of the Mustang Band;
- exhibit poor judgment that results in disciplinary action;
- fail to meet the financial responsibility;
- fail to attend rehearsals;
- prove themselves to be unable to be trusted on this type of trip;

...will be removed at the discretion of the Director and the school administration.

This decision will be final!

Trip Rules

- Remember that you represent our community and our band at all times during the trip. Everything that you do, say and wear is to be a POSITIVE reflection on who you are and where you are from.
- Mr. Estrada sets the trip guidelines. No chaperone or student may alter these guidelines.
- Band students are ALWAYS (no exceptions) to travel in groups of at least four students/chaperones. A student who loses his/her group should report immediately to the designated Chaperone Check-in Area.
- **The use of illegal drugs, tobacco products and/or alcohol is strictly prohibited during our trip.** Any student who chooses to deviate from this rule will face immediate band disciplinary action, LCISD disciplinary consequences, and may be subject to criminal prosecution.
- **A student caught committing a crime on the trip will be the responsibility of the parent.**
- Trip chaperones are part of our group in order to help assure a positive and safe trip for everyone. These parental assistants are to be respected and obeyed. Any chaperones experiencing trouble with an uncooperative student are to report to Mr. Estrada immediately.
- At no time may members of our band trip group invite non-members to join them. For safety reasons our students are to stay with Mustang Band students during any and all trip activities.
- No student is allowed in a hotel room occupied by members of the opposite gender. All rooms are single gender only! There are common areas of the hotel for socializing such as the pool or lounge.
- These trips are long and tiring. Maintain a positive attitude at all times!
- There will be an LCISD administrator traveling with us to ensure student safety and compliance with rules.
- Students must be enrolled in a band class second semester to participate in this trip. This means you must be in a concert band or winterguard class to go on this trip. **And you'll need to be passing!**

Cost of the trip per student:

\$950

This price includes:

- Round trip airfare and ground transportation
- Four nights hotel accommodations at Lake Buena Vista Calypso Cay Amerisuites
- Daily breakfast buffet in hotel
- One meal coupon per day per park (Three at Disney World, one at Universal)
- Admission to three days at Disney World
- Admission to one day at Universal's Islands of Adventures

Musical Activities:

- Magic Music Days featured performance: parade through a Disney park for the Mustang Marching Band
- Performance clinic with a Disney Music Conductor for winds/percussion, performance clinic with Disney Dancers for Winterguard.

TRIP FINANCES

- Students participating in the band competition trip may pay for their trip cost either by:
 1. Making personal payments on the dates indicated
 2. Participating in organized band trip fundraisers
 3. A combination of these two payment plans
- The Band Director and the Lamar Band Booster Club Vice-President will govern all trip fundraising moneys and personal payments from students and chaperones.
- Any check or money order used to pay for trip fundraisers or trip payments must be made payable to Lamar Band Boosters.
- Any check used for fundraising payment or trip payments **must be from the immediate family of the band member**. Please convert all payments to ONE check or money order.
- Cash payments are not encouraged. Please assist us by submitting money orders.
- Each trip member will receive a monthly trip account statement from the Treasurer.
- *Non-sufficient check funds guideline*: A fee of \$10 will be charged to the student's account and payment to the Lamar Band Boosters must be made in the form of a money order. If a second NSF is received from the same trip member, he/she will be removed from the trip.
- **Failure on a student's part to make trip payments on time may result in termination from the trip. A trip member will be given one notice to bring their trip account up to date. Failure to comply by the payment deadline may result in cancellation from the trip.**

TRIP PAYMENT INFORMATION

- All fundraising payments and trip installment payments should be turned into the lock box in Mr. Estrada's office. Place checks/money orders in sealed payment envelopes. **We discourage making cash payments.** Please write the student's name in the MEMO portion of the check or money order, and fill out the information on the front of the envelope.
- Trip students will receive a monthly individual account statement. Please make sure we have your correct mailing address.
- The trip account statement will list any personal payments received up to the time the individual's statement was prepared as well as any profits from pre-paid fund-raisers. We will not post any profit from an unpaid fund-raiser.
- Please call or e-mail Mr. Estrada if you have questions regarding a trip account. Student's trip account information will only be discussed with the actual student or their custodial parent. The band booster vice-president (Mr. Kanafani) will track student fundraising totals. Mr. Estrada will be the liaison between parents and the booster club.

GENERAL FUNDRAISING RULES

- Student's participation in band trip fundraisers is optional. When a student participates in a sale, the profit from that sale will be posted to that student's trip account held by the Lamar Band Boosters.
- Pick up orders ON TIME on the correct date!
- Fundraising opportunities will not be available to any band student who does not pay for each trip sale at the appropriate time.
- Payment for a trip fundraiser is to be made when the student turns in the final order form for a sale and is to be in the form of a check (from student's parent's account only) or a money order made payable to Lamar Band Boosters.

PLEASE CONVERT ALL PAYMENTS TO ONE CHECK/MONEY ORDER FROM THE STUDENT'S PARENT. PLEASE DO NOT TURN IN INDIVIDUAL CHECKS FROM YOUR CUSTOMERS.

- Band families who wish to participate in any band fundraiser are responsible for proper storage and timely delivery of items:
 1. Food items must be delivered within 24 hours of pick up
 2. Perishable items (cookie dough, chocolate, etc.) must be stored in a refrigerated area.
 3. Candy must be stored in a cool, dry place until delivery.
- Problems with a fundraising item must be brought to the Band Director's attention in writing within a day of pickup.
- Complaints to the Band Director/LCHS/LBB from a band student's fundraising customer may result in a refund to that customer from the student's trip account held by the Lamar Band Boosters.
- Band students are not to take sale orders or sell fundraising items during class time at LCHS.
- Always follow the sale order and delivery dates. Order forms and sale information will be in the LCHS Band Hall (next to office door) at the sale kickoff. Parents who want a specific sale brochure should contact Mr. Estrada by e-mail, or by calling his voice mail (832-223-3136) and leaving a message. Product information, cost, profit, final order form, and payment due date will be included with order information.
- Other opportunities for fundraising will be offered. These include car washes, group food sales, and the Dodge pickup promotion.

Student Trip Payment Schedule

All trip payments are to be a check or money order made payable to Lamar Band Boosters.

All trip payments are to be deposited in the Band Booster Steel Lockbox in the Band Office. (Please place checks in a sealed envelope).

<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>	<u>Amount in Account**</u>
June 8 th	\$100*	\$100
August 3 rd	\$100	\$200
September 7 th	\$100	\$300
October 5 th	\$100	\$400
November 2 nd	\$150	\$550
December 7 th	\$100	\$650
January 11 th	\$150	\$800
January 23 rd	\$150	\$950

Periodic payments are due to the hotel/festival/airline/parks throughout the time leading up to the date of our trip. Please assist us by keeping your trip accounts up to date by making payments on time. This is extremely important!

*The initial deposit is in addition to any funds currently in your trip account. This is to assure us of your commitment to participating on the trip!

** Amount in account would include any fundraising profits, with the exception of the first deadline of June 8th.

Payments made after the due date will result in a \$10 late fee.

Cancellation charges

If you drop out of the trip after November 2nd there will be a \$50 cancellation charge. This is to protect the financial investment of the other students. Your trip deposits will be refunded to you minus the cancellation charge. No fundraised funds will be refunded – they will remain in the trip account.

There will be no refunds of any trip deposits after January 24, 2008, for any reason.

Fundraising

A full schedule of fundraising opportunities is planned by the booster club. These include car washes, brochure sales, food sales, a bbq dinner, and a Dodge Truck promotion. More details will be available on Money Night, August 3, 2007.

Students are encouraged to be creative in collecting money for this trip! Solicit cash gifts from friends and relatives for birthdays, Christmas, etc. Students should use the summer to mow lawns, do some babysitting, save wages from summer jobs, etc.

CHAPERONES

Chaperones are needed for this trip!

Chaperones will be selected by Mr. Estrada based on volunteer hours served with the Mustang Band throughout the 2007 marching season. Anything you do in service to the band will be counted. Please refer to the Booster Club Volunteer Questionnaire for examples of work hours. The list is a good example, but your volunteer activities are not limited to this.

Please submit your work hours at any booster club meeting. Hours will be tallied at the November meeting.

Fine print for chaperones:

- Chaperones will have assigned duties throughout the trip.
- Chaperones are also “on call” even during their unassigned times.
- Chaperones are required to follow the LCISD and Mustang Band trip guidelines and enforce the rules in a uniform manner.
- All members of this trip are representatives of the Mustang Band, the LCISD, and the communities that comprise the LCISD.
- All trip members are required to follow the trip itinerary and may not make alterations or changes on their own.
- Chaperones are expected to maintain a safe atmosphere for our students and report any problems to Mr. Estrada immediately.
- Chaperones are not permitted to smoke or drink alcoholic beverages when with our students. If this is a problem, then please give someone else a chance to go on the trip as a chaperone.
- Chaperones are expected to give out hugs, reprimands, attaboys, Kleenex, and smiles as needed throughout this trip.
- Parents are welcome to purchase a trip package at full price and volunteer for chaperone duty, provided they can agree to the fine print, and provided there is room on the plane!
- Mr. Estrada may elect to consider prior chaperone experience in selecting chaperones.
- Additional family members may purchase trip packages, provided there is room, and provided payment deadlines are met.
- Non-chaperone spouses of working chaperones may purchase trip packages provided payment deadlines are met. Extra payment for special hotel accommodations will be the responsibility of the chaperone’s family.
- Paid chaperones will be selected from the list of volunteers who have submitted work hours by the November band booster meeting. No exceptions!
- Full payment will be expected by the trip deadline of January 24, 2008.

ITINERARY

(Subject to change!)

Wednesday, March 12th

3:30pm	Depart from LCHS – transfer to Hobby Airport
6:30pm	Depart Hobby Airport
10:00pm	(local time) Arrive Sanford Airport, transfer to hotel, unpack, GO TO SLEEP!

Thursday, March 13th

Epcot, Magic Music Days Parade, You're Instrumental clinic, Auxiliration clinic, lots of fun.

Friday, March 14th

Magic Kingdom

Saturday, March 15th

Disney MGM Studios

Sunday, March 16th

Early am	student-led interdenominational worship service
	Universal Islands of Adventure
4:00pm	Board buses, transfer to Sanford Airport
7:00pm	Depart Sanford Airport
8:30pm	Arrive at Hobby Airport

One more thing...

- Students and parents must be willing to follow through with the personal, time, musical, financial, attendance, and work ethic commitments required for participation in the band trip.
- Excuses for poor behavior, not making trip payments on time, forgetting to pick up trip fund-raisers, etc., are not accepted for any trip member.
- Once on the trip, students and chaperones are expected to follow all trip/school district/band rules. Failure to do so will result in removal from the trip. Parents are financially responsible for the expenses associated with returning the student home. If it is not feasible to send the student home, he/she will be separated from the group and will not have access to trip events.
- Parents are financially responsible for any medical bills incurred by a student on the trip.
- Students and their parents will be held responsible for any damage done to property while on the trip.
- All trip members are expected to represent our band, school district, community and state with pride and dignity. Members' attitudes, behavior, speech and manner of dress must be appropriate at all times.
- Parent and/or student ignorance of the rules, expectations, financial guidelines, penalties, is not accepted.
- Participation in this band event is a *privilege*, not a right.

I'm ready to sign up! What do I do now?

Parent Meetings will be scheduled at various times in early June. Every student who signs up for the trip is required to bring a parent.

The purpose of the trip meeting is to ensure that all parties understand:

- *Musical and behavioral expectations in band class*
- *Financial obligations, payment deadlines, and late payment fees*
- *Cancellation fees and cancellation deadlines*
- *Reasons for dismissal from the trip*
- *Attendance and Disciplinary Guidelines necessary for trip participation*
- *Parent coverage of student medical expenses incurred on the trip*
- *Parent coverage of expenses to send student home from trip if necessary*
- *Student and parent must attend pre-trip meeting in early March*

Band Office: (832) 223-3136

Mr. Estrada's email: restrada@lcisd.org