

MARTIN GT MAGNET MIDDLE

**Walt Disney World
Experience**

February 14 - 18



Disney Trip Handbook 2018



Greetings, Martin Performing Arts Students and Parents!

It is with great excitement that we present our performing arts trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL! This year's trip offers signature opportunities for each arts discipline.

Parents – We are grateful for the interest and enthusiasm that you have exhibited not only in regards to our trip, but in support of our performing arts programs in general. We thank you for your patience as we work out details and finalize arrangements, and for your willingness to accompany us as chaperones. Without your cooperation, this trip would not be possible!

Students – We are so proud of the hard work that you do, and proud that you will be representing not only Martin's music and performing arts department, but also our school, the city of Raleigh, and our great state of North Carolina! We are positive that this will be a fantastic experience, and one that you will always remember!

We are going to have a blast exploring all that Walt Disney World has to offer. One of our school administrators, will be accompanying us on the trip, and we are glad to welcome them aboard!

This handbook contains pertinent information regarding travel, itinerary, accommodations, and other important trip details. Additionally, you'll find a few tips and tricks for making the most of our Disney experience. Please download this handbook, read through it thoroughly, and keep it handy.

Most of all, get ready, gear up, and prepare for the performance experience of a lifetime.!



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Trip Coordinator:	Anita Hynus ahynus@wcpss.net
Accompanying Admin.:	Jeff Kimbro, Assistant Principal jkimbro@wcpss.net
Bus/Transportation:	AT&T Charters 10 Jilden Dr Louisburg, NC 27549 (919) 853-3000 http://www.attcoach.com
Hotel:	Best Western Lake Buena Vista – Disney Springs Resort Area 2000 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830 (407) 828-2424 www.lakebuenavistaresorthotel.com/

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

Field trips with middle school students, and particularly overnight field trips with middle school students, would not be possible or successful without the aid and support of responsible chaperone volunteers. Thank you for your participation and help in making our trip a success!

Students and chaperones alike must understand that chaperones are representatives of both Martin Middle and, by extension, Wake Country Public Schools (hence, all chaperones MUST receive clearance as a WCPSS volunteer). Although we certainly want chaperones to enjoy the trip as well, the chaperone's primary responsibility is to ensure the safety and well-being of the students in his/her group while away from school property.

SUPERVISION

At a place as large as Walt Disney World, it is easy for students (and adults alike!) to get caught up in the excitement of exploring a particular attraction of interest or area of the park without first informing the rest of their group. **At no point in time should any Martin Middle School student be ANYWHERE within Disney property or the hotel property without their chaperone.** It is imperative that each student is accounted for at all times, and **if at any time a student becomes separated from his/her chaperone for any reason, the chaperone and student should immediately call Ms. Hynus, Ms. Lowder, or Mr. Yancey. Their mobile**

numbers are listed below:

Mrs. Hynus cell number	(919) 215-9065
Ms. Lowder cell number	(828) 712-8011
Mr. Yancey cell number	(919) 308-2538

CHECK-INS

When departing the hotel each morning, chaperones are asked to check-in with a teacher via text or telephone (numbers listed above). Chaperones should again check-in with a teacher mid-day (around 12 noon to 1 p.m.). A third check-in should be made early evening (around 5 to 6 p.m.), and a final check-in should be made when departing the parks and returning to the hotel for the evening. **Chaperones should be accessible by telephone at all times, and should keep your cell phones on and charged!** "Room checks" will occur nightly starting at 9:30. All chaperones and groups are asked to be back at the hotel and settled into rooms NO LATER than midnight.

GENERAL TRIP RULES

All Wake County Public Schools rules and policies are in effect during the trip including dress code. Teachers and administrators on the trip reserve the right to request that a student or chaperone change into clothing that is more appropriate if original clothing is in violation of dress code. **The use of alcohol and/or any tobacco products (including cigarettes and vapor products) is strictly prohibited.** This of course applies to the students, but also extends to chaperones as well.

DEPARTURE, ARRIVAL, AND BUS TRAVEL

All students and chaperones that are riding the bus should gather at the front entrance of Martin by 7pm on Wednesday, February 14th. We will depart promptly at 8pm., but it is essential that you are there one hour earlier so that we have adequate time to call roll, load luggage, and complete other pre-departure tasks. If you are running late for any reason (car trouble, personal issue, etc.) please call your child's director before 7:30pm. If you are not on the bus by 8 a.m. and you have not called to alert Ms. Hynus of your situation, the bus will depart without you, and a trip refund cannot be guaranteed.

The trip to Florida will be a 10-hour drive (not including food/rest stops), so please dress comfortably. Dressing in layers is advised, as the temperature in Raleigh will likely be quite cool when we leave that morning, but will almost certainly be warmer when we arrive in Orlando! The buses may also be cool, so be sure to bring a sweater or light jacket for the ride. To ensure adequate space for everyone, each person is limited to one carry-on bag (backpack size) for any items needed on the bus. Remaining bags or suitcases must be placed under the bus with the rest of the luggage. Be sure that your carry-on bag contains all that you will need for the bus ride, such as any medications,

If you are using alternate means to get to Orlando, please make your that your travel plans have been clearly explained to one of the directors.

Please be sure that Mrs. Hynus, Ms. Lowder, or Mr. Yancey have a working cell phone number for you if you are making your own travel arrangements to get to Orlando.

snacks, drinks, jackets/blankets, as you will not be able to access your luggage under the bus until after we check into the hotel Thursday afternoon.

As we will be traveling at night, it is a good idea to get some rest while on the bus, so that you will be refreshed and energized once we arrive in Orlando. If you wish, you may bring an entertainment device for the road. All such devices, however, are YOUR personal responsibility to keep up with, and Martin Middle School and/or the teachers, administrators, and chaperones on the buses cannot be held responsible for lost items. Our buses are equipped with a bus-wide DVD player and TV, and students may bring DVD's to share, if they wish. All DVD's must receive prior approval from one of the teachers. Rated "R" movies are not allowed and all movies above a G rating must be approved prior to trip departure. At the close of our trip on Saturday evening, we will be leaving around 9p.m. after park closing and driving through the night. This means that we will be checking out of our hotel on *Saturday morning*, and loading all luggage and belongings onto the bus before heading off for more performance experiences in the parks.. That night, at 9pm, we will assemble at our bus at the Transportation and Ticket Center (in front of Magic Kingdom) and prepare to depart back to Raleigh, with an estimated arrival time in Raleigh of about 10am on Sunday. For more details on travel and estimated departure and arrival times, please see itinerary, page 12.

Parents/guardians that are not accompanying their student(s) to Disney will receive a phone call or text message from your student's teacher on Sunday when we are approximately one hour away from Raleigh and Martin Middle.

BUS RULES

- Please be courteous and polite to our drivers. They will be transporting us over 1200 miles round trip and driving for almost 12 hours straight down and 12 hours back. The least we can do is be polite and keep noise to a minimum so that they can concentrate!
- Personal electronic devices (radios, mp3 players, and portable CD or DVD players) are allowed, but may ONLY be used with headphones. It is YOUR responsibility to keep up with these items should you choose to bring them, and chaperones/teachers/Martin Middle are not responsible for lost or damaged items.
- Please use the bus restrooms only for emergencies. We plan to take periodic "rest breaks," and bathroom visits should happen at those times.
- Food and beverages are allowed, but please keep food/drink items to sizes and quantities that can be easily stowed in your backpack or carry-on bag. And – this is important! – if you make a mess, you must be responsible to clean up after yourself! Before getting on and off the bus at each rest break, check the floor around and under your seat, and dispose of any



trash.

- Stay in your seat while the bus is in motion. If you need to get up for any reason, including to throw something away or use the restroom, always ask a chaperone or teacher first.
- Our buses will have bus-wide DVD players and TVs, in which case we may opt to show a movie to the whole bus. You may bring a movie to share with the group, provided that it has been approved by a teacher.

LUGGAGE GUIDELINES

- All luggage will be stored under the bus, and due to space limitations, each person on is permitted **one suitcase (any size) and one carry-on bag (backpack size or smaller)**.
- Your suitcase will NOT be available to you during travel, even at rest stops, so please keep any necessary items (food, medication, etc.) that you will need during the ride in your carry-on bag.
- All luggage should be clearly marked with your name and "Martin Middle/Raleigh NC" on the outside using luggage tags.

HOTEL INFORMATION

We will be staying at the Best Western Lake Buena Vista at Disney Springs (formerly "Downtown Disney") in Lake Buena Vista, FL. Each room has two queen beds and complimentary wi-fi. A mini-fridge is available for \$20 per night (not included in trip cost).

Other amenities include:

- Disney gift shop in lobby
- Sundries and convenience store
- Business center
- Fitness room
- Coin-operated guest laundry
- Car rental on property
- Traders' Island Grill (serving breakfast and dinner daily – not included in trip cost)
- Parakeet Café serving pastries and sandwiches
- Pizza Hut Express
- Flamingo Cove lounge
- Evening security

Please note that if you request any fee-based services (i.e. room service, in-room movies, long distance telephone calls, etc.), you will be responsible for the balance owed at the time of check-out Friday morning. Trip monies paid do not cover extra hotel services.

HOTEL RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Please do not use the telephone in your hotel room except for room-to-room or front- desk calls. All other calls should be made on personal cell phone or pay phone. Any fee-based telephone charges will be your responsibility upon check-out.
- We suggest that you leave valuables and expensive items at home, but if you do bring valuables (or expensive electronic equipment), please pack up/secure those items in your luggage before leaving the hotel room each day.
- Make every effort to pick up after yourself and tidy up your hotel room before leaving each morning. Not only is it courteous for our hotel housekeeper, but it also minimizes the likelihood that you will lose something or find something missing or disposed of when you return to your room.
- If you are bringing a cell phone, be sure that you pack the charger and charge it nightly in the hotel. Chaperones – it is particularly important that we are always able to reach you.



MEALS AND MONEY

The total cost for the trip includes travel to and from Raleigh, NC and Orlando, FL; accommodations for four nights at the Best Western Lake Buena Vista hotel, and 4-day Park Hopper tickets to the four main Disney parks (Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, and Hollywood Studios). Meals are not included in the price of the trip, and all participants are responsible for your own meals. Meals will be with your chaperone group either in or around the Disney parks and resorts. As you plan your monetary needs, consider bringing enough money to cover the following meals:

Disney Day One – Thursday, February 15th

Meal #1 – Breakfast in and around parks

Meal #2 – Lunch in and around parks

Meal #3 – Dinner in and around parks

Any snacks, drinks, or treats throughout the day

Disney Day Two – Friday, February 16th

Meal #1 – Breakfast in and around parks

Keep in mind that while at Disney World, you are not limited to eating meals in the parks. As a visitor on Disney grounds, you have access to all the resorts, all of which have restaurants and food courts that offer different and uniquely themed dining options (and probably much less crowded than in the parks!). In Disney Springs, within walking distance of our hotel, you will also find popular restaurants such as House of Blues, Wolfgang Puck Café, and Ghiradelli Ice Cream and Chocolate Shop.

Meal #2 – Lunch in and around parks
Meal #3 – Dinner in and around parks
Any snacks, drinks, or treats throughout the day

Disney Day Three – Saturday, February 17th

Meal #1 – Breakfast in and around parks
Meal #2 – Lunch in and around parks
Meal #3 – Dinner in and around parks
Any snacks, drinks, or treats throughout the day



Disney Springs (formerly Downtown Disney), a short walk from our hotel, is a great destination to pick up signature Disney Souvenirs. Highlights of Disney Springs include The Lego Imagination Center (everything is made out of Legos!), Mickey’s Mart (everything is \$10 and under), and the Ghiradelli Soda Fountain and Chocolate Shop (gourmet ice cream and huge sundaes. There is no admission free for Disney Springs, so this might be a great area to visit on Monday evening after we arrive and get settled in! On Thursday, our choral students will be performing in Disney Springs at the Waterside Stage (time TBD).

INTINERARY

Wednesday, February 14th:

- 7:00pm Students arrive at Martin for final check of required information and bus load-in
- 8:00pm Buses are loaded and we depart for Orlando
students and chaperones will sleep on the bus, with chaperones taking turns to monitor student behavior

Thursday, February 15th:

- 7:30am Stop for breakfast in Jacksonville FL
- 9:00am Breakfast completed, board buses. Directors will call roll to ensure that all students and chaperones are present. Once roll is completed the bus continues to Orlando.
- 11:00am Arrive at Magic Kingdom
Students will be divided into groups with assigned chaperones who will take them to participate in performance experiences throughout the park. Chaperones will be responsible for making sure that students have an adequate lunch. Chaperones will check in with directors after lunch.
- 3:00pm Chaperones will take students to additional performance experiences throughout Magic Kingdom (*specific times for performances have not yet been posted by Disney for the dates that we selected.*)
- 6:00pm Students and chaperones will gather with directors for dinner in the park.
- 8:00pm Students, chaperones and directors will board buses (directors will call roll

- to ensure that every student is accounted for before departing) to head to hotel for check-in
- 8:30pm All students and chaperones will check into hotel rooms. Rooming lists will be checked and confirmed to ensure that each student is in his/her assigned room.
- 9:30pm Lights out. Chaperones will once again check every room to ensure that all students are in assigned rooms. After confirming that all students are in their assigned rooms, chaperones will check in with their director and verify that all students are accounted for. As students, chaperones and directors are sleeping, a night guard will be hired to ensure that all students remain in their rooms.

Friday, February 16th:

- 7:30am Breakfast at the Hotel
- 9:00am Breakfast completed, board buses. Directors will call roll to ensure that all students and chaperones are present. Once roll is completed the bus Epcot
- 9:30am Arrive at Epcot
Students will be divided into groups with assigned chaperones who will take them to participate in performance experiences throughout the park. Chaperones will be responsible for making sure that students have an adequate lunch. Chaperones will check in with directors after lunch.
- 1:00pm All trip participants head back to the hotel to get ready for Martin Ensemble Performances (Disney has not yet given us a schedule of which groups are performing on each day) – Roll call will be done before leaving the park
- 2:30pm Students will gather back on buses ensuring that all instruments, music and concert attire are stage ready. Roll will be called to ensure that all students are accounted for and buses will depart to performance location (There will be a number of performances scheduled by schools from around the country on the same days as ours. We will take time to listen to all of the scheduled performances.)
- 6:00pm Students and chaperones will gather with directors for dinner in the park.
- 8:00pm Students, chaperones and directors will board buses (directors will call roll to ensure that every student is accounted for before departing) to head to hotel
- 8:30pm All students and chaperones will check into hotel rooms. Rooming lists will be checked and confirmed to ensure that each student is in his/her assigned room.
- 9:30pm Lights out. Chaperones will once again check every room to ensure that all students are in assigned rooms. After confirming that all students are in their assigned rooms, chaperones will check in with their director and verify that all students are accounted for. As students, chaperones and directors are sleeping, a night guard will be hired to ensure that all students remain

in their rooms.

Saturday, February 17th:

- 7:30am Breakfast at the Hotel and Check out. Chaperones will do room sweeps to ensure that students have not left any personal belongings behind. Students will load luggage onto bus. Being sure to keep performance attire in a separate bag.
- 9:00am Breakfast completed, board buses. Directors will call roll to ensure that all students and chaperones are present. Once roll is completed the bus
Disney's Hollywood Studios (DHS)
- 9:30am Arrive at DHS
Students will be divided into groups with assigned chaperones who will take them to participate in performance experiences throughout the park. Chaperones will be responsible for making sure that students have an adequate lunch. Chaperones will check in with directors after lunch.
- 1:00pm All trip participants head back to the hotel to get ready for the second day of Martin Ensemble Performances. The hotel will provide use of 4 of their ballrooms for students to change into performance attire. Chaperones and directors will ensure students make use of the appropriate changing room. (Disney has not yet given us a schedule of which groups are performing on each day) – Roll call will be done before leaving the park
- 2:30pm Students will gather back on buses ensuring that all instruments, music and concert attire are stage ready. Roll will be called to ensure that all students are accounted for and buses will depart to performance location (There will be a number of performances scheduled by schools from around the country on the same days as ours. We will take time to listen to all of the scheduled performances.)
- 6:00pm Students and chaperones will gather with directors for dinner in the park.
- 8:00pm Students, chaperones and directors will board buses (directors will call roll to ensure that every student is accounted for before departing) to back to Raleigh.
- 10:00am Arrive back at Martin Middle School

OUR PERFORMANCES

The highlight of our trip is of course the Signature Disney experience that has been arranged for each of our Performing Arts groups! Read on below for details for your ensemble.

We will be performing live at the “Waterside Stage” in Disney Springs. Our actual performance time will not be determined until about 2 weeks prior to our trip, but because we do know that the performance day will be Thursday, it might be wise to plan for some part of your day Thursday to explore Disney Springs. Once details are known about the performance time, guidelines will be shared regarding exact times to meet in Disney Springs, as well as where to gather, as there will be a pre-show/warm-up area where students will initially gather that will be separate from the audience seating where parents/chaperones will be.



MEDICAL

- All students must fill out an Emergency Medical Form before departure. Each chaperone will have a copy for the students in his/her group, and Mr. Yancey will have master copies.
- Directors must be notified in writing before departure of any special medical concerns/conditions, including information on medications, for any child whose parent/guardian is not accompanying him/her on the trip
- Students should notify their chaperone if they are not feeling well. First aid stations are located in each of the four Disney parks. In the case of medical emergency, notify your Director ***immediately via cell phone.***
- While in the parks, it will be extremely important to **stay hydrated**, as temperatures may be in the 80's and above. Water is always the best option (and better for your vocal folds!), and cups of ice and tap water are free upon request at every restaurant/food stand within the Disney parks.
- Amidst the excitement, be sure to eat. It will be tempting to skip breakfast and head straight to the rides, but if possible, please at least have something light at the hotel (ex. a granola bar, some fruit, and milk or juice) or grab a quick bite once you get into

the park.

FINAL REMINDERS

- Students should stay with your chaperone/group at ALL times.
- Students: If you should get lost or separated from your group, call your Director and immediately go to the nearest Disney cast member (Disney cast members wear a special badge confirming their identity) and they will escort you to the Guest Services area for the park.
- Chaperones: If one of your group members gets lost, **immediately** call your Director so that he/she can make his/her way to Guest Services for that particular park.
- Even in the hotel, students should not go **anywhere** (even to a vending machine, breakfast area, etc.) without a chaperone.

Please **keep up with your park ticket**...your one ticket is for your entire Disney stay and must be scanned for admission into each park each day, as well as each time you obtain a FastPass for a ride. Please guard it from getting wet, torn, or worse yet, lost! Treat it like your wallet and keep it on you at all times!

- Although this is a fun trip, please also remember that we are representing Martin, Wake County, and North Carolina. Our behavior at all times should exemplify that of ambassadors of our home town!

SAMPLE PACKING LIST

Below is a sample packing list of items that you may find helpful to bring. Items that you will definitely need are in bold. **Typical early April weather in Orlando is daily highs of 79/80 with evening lows of about 55/56**....pack accordingly for warm days and cool evenings.

- Performance Attire**
- Toiletries** (toothbrush + toothpaste, brush/comb, shower gel/soap, lotion, deodorant, hair clips, etc.)
- Money** – enough for daily meals and snacks, plus any souvenirs
- ID/Driver's License** (for the adults/chaperones)
- Cell phone(s) + charger(s)**
- Sunscreen
- A hat or baseball cap
- Comfortable, thick-soled shoes for walking in the parks
- Comfortable clothing (shorts, capri pants, jeans, tee-shirts, a jacket, etc.) WCPSS dress code in effect: no profanity or obscene writing or images on clothing; no

- midriff-bearing tops (swimsuits OK, only at pool)
- Flip-flops/water shoes for the pool and shower
 - Swimsuit for hotel pool (and swimcap if you use one)
 - "Waist pack" or small backpack to take with you into the parks (keep in mind that you will have to keep up with whatever you bring)
 - Rain poncho(s) for daily afternoon FL rain showers (or an umbrella, but umbrellas in the park are cumbersome and hard to keep up with)
 - Personal entertainment devices for the bus (iPod, portable DVD player, etc.)
 - Antibacterial hand gel to carry with you at all times
 - Insurance Cards (parents/chaperones only)
 - Snacks and/or drinks for the bus and hotel (i.e. granola bars, crackers, cookies, Pop-Tarts, chips/pretzels, fruit snacks, pudding, jello, single-serve powdered drink mixes)

DINING TIPS

The food at DisneyWorld is good, but can get pricey very quickly. The trick to eating inexpensively or on a budget is to identify the different types of eateries within the parks, and choose where you will eat accordingly.

At each of the four parks, there are generally three types of eateries: 1) sit-down restaurants, 2) counter-service restaurants, and 3) food stands. The **sit-down restaurants** are the most expensive, and there, you will have waitstaff and servers that take your order and bring you your food, usually plated and with garnishes. Generally, for every sit-down restaurant in the parks, there is also a **counter-service version** of the same restaurant, offering the same foods as it's sit-down parent, but instead of being plated and served with garnishes, the food will be served "fast food-style," on paper plates or cardboard or Styrofoam trays, and instead of being served by a waiter or waitress, you place your order cafeteria style and pick it up from the counter yourself. Usually there is both outdoor and indoor seating available. By ordering from a counter-service restaurant rather than the sit-down restaurant, you can get the same food, and usually shave off anywhere from \$3 to \$7 from your purchase, not to mention save time that you could be using for rides! The third type of eateries, **food stands**, typically don't serve full meals, but can be great places to purchase snacks (French fries, funnel cakes, etc.), drinks (lemonade, soda, bottled water), and other treats such as Mickey Mouse ice cream bars and popsicles on the go. In every park, there are multiple food stands, and at least one in each park that sells fruit, such as apples, oranges, bananas, etc. for only \$1 a piece.

By scoping out your food choices in advance (using the website below) rather than simply eating on impulse based on whatever is nearby, you can save a considerable amount of money on food.

For up-to-date Menus and Pricing of ALL Restaurants within Walt Disney World (including the four theme parks, all resorts, and Downtown Disney), visit:

<http://www.guide2wdw.com/menus.htm>

Bring Your Own Snacks and Drinks

Disney now allows guests to bring in outside food and drink into the parks. This means that you may carry with you a backpack or cooler that contains snacks, bottled water or soda, etc., even a full meal if you have enough room for it, into any of the four Disney Parks*. If you can keep up with it, you might consider bringing a fanny pack or small backpack that you can stock with some crackers, cookies, granola bars, and a couple drinks each day before you go into the parks, as snack items in the parks can be expensive, especially drinks. ***Note: Animal Kingdom does have the following restrictions: No hard-sided coolers, large coolers, glass containers, or straws (even the little ones attached to juice boxes). This is a safety precaution for the animals.***

Ice Water is always FREE

Before you purchase a bottle of water from one of the eateries within the parks for \$3 or more, please be aware that Disney food stand, counter-service, or restaurant employees will provide you with a cup of ice water, free of charge, if you just ask. If you don't like the taste of tap water, you might even want to carry with you a few of those single-serve packets of Crystal Light or Kool-Aid, to make your own flavored beverage with the ice water rather than spending \$2 to \$4 a cup on fruit punch, lemonade, or tea. As hot as it is and as much as you will need to drink, this can save you a LOT of money!

Use your AAA card, if you have one

Some of the restaurants on Disney property, such as "Earl of Sandwich" at Downtown Disney, offer 20% discounts with AAA card.

Don't Pay for What You Don't Want

Many of the counter service restaurant meal deals include one or two sides, such as mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetable, etc. If you want to leave something off, just say so, and they will reduce the price accordingly.

Want More Money Saving Tips?

Go to www.mousesavers.com

