

NYC TRIP 2019-2020

This year's trip to NYC will be a great experience for the performing arts.

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 the 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, Raleigh/Wake County, 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 New York has to offer. One of our principals will be accompanying us on this trip and we will be glad to welcome them aboard.

This packet contains pertinent information regarding travel, itinerary, accommodations, and other important trip details.

Contact information:

Lacy Lowder (dance director)

mlowder@wcpss.net

Allison Thomas (Choral director)

awthomas@wcpss.net

Anita Hynus (orchestra director)

ahynus@wcpss.net

Jeff Kimbro

jkimbro@wcpss.net (Assistant Principal)

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, WCPSS, therefore chaperones must receive clearance to be a 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 their group while away from school property.

- You may not consume any alcohol on this trip and/or any tobacco products (including cigarettes/e-cigarettes). It is strictly prohibited.
- We will also have text check in's on the drive down and up
- Chaperones must remain present with students at all times on bus and at NYC sites.
- You are free to sight-see on your own during student workshops.
- You must adhere to school policies and procedures

At a place as large as NYC, it is easy for students and adults alike to get caught up in the excitement of exploring a particular attraction of interest or area without first informing the rest of their group. At no point should any Martin Middle school student be ANYWHERE without their chaperone. IF at any time a student becomes separated from their chaperone for any reason, the chaperone and student should immediately call their director.

Check-ins

When getting ready at the hotel each morning, chaperones are asked to check-in with their director via text or call. Chaperones will have periodic check-ins throughout the day in person and via text. A final check-in should be made when settled in the hotel room for the night. Neither students or chaperones are allowed to use hotel pool or be in the pool area.

"Room checks" will occur each night starting at 10:30pm, with lights out at 11pm. All chaperones and groups are asked to be settled into rooms no later than 10:30pm.

GENERAL TRIP RULES

All Wake County Public School rules and policies are in effect during the trip. No excessively short shorts, skirts, or t-shirts or any other clothing displaying profane or offensive language or symbols. School faculty reserve the right to request that a student or chaperone change into clothing that is more appropriate if the original clothing is in violation of dress code. The use of alcohol and/or any tobacco products (cigarettes/e-cigarettes) by students or chaperones is strictly prohibited.

DEVICES AND MEDIA

It has been communicated that any media consumed during the trip (even on personal devices) must adhere to WCPSS policies. Students should use discretion in choosing appropriate content. Parents will be contacted if any issues arise.

DEPARTURE, ARRIVAL, AND BUS TRAVEL

All students and chaperones should plan to be in the front parking lot of Martin Middle by 4am on Thursday February 20th. We will depart promptly at 5:00am, 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 director before 4:45, if you are not on the bus by 5:00, and you have not called to alert us of your situation, the bus will depart without you, and a trip refund will not be issued.

The trip to New York will be approximately 10 hours (not including food/rest stops) so please dress comfortably. Dressing in layers is advised, as the temperature will be cold when we leave that morning and almost certain even colder in NYC. The bus may be cool, so be sure to bring a blanket, a sweater or light jacket for the ride. To ensure adequate space for everyone, each person is limited to only one carry on bag on the bus. All other bags must be placed under the bus with the rest of the luggage. Coolers for drinks must be small enough to fit in your lap, under you seat, or in the overhead storage compartment. Be sure that your carry-on bag contains all that you will need for the bus ride, i.e. any books, games, medications, snacks, etc., as you will not be able to access your suitcases/luggage under the bus until after we check in to the hotel that afternoon.

Although we will be traveling during the day, 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 New York! We will be requiring that between 5am and 9am (or until breakfast time) that we have quiet hours on the bus so that people can sleep. If you wish, you may bring an entertainment device for the road. All such devices are your personal responsibility to keep up with, and Martin Middle School cannot be held responsible for lost items. Our bus is 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 your child's director.

Parents/guardians that are not accompanying their student(s) on the trip will receive a phone call or text message from their students (and a Remind text from their director) on Thursday when we are approximately one hour away from NYC and when we have arrived. There will also be a message when we are leaving NYC Sunday morning and when we are an hour away from Raleigh. Directors will be accessible throughout the trip via Remind texts.

BUS RULES

- Please be courteous and polite to our driver. They will be transporting us over 1200 miles round trip and driving for almost 10 hours straight down and 10 hours back. The least we can do is be polite and keep noise to a minimum so that they can concentrate.
- You may use your devices to play music or watch videos but you may only use them with headphones. It is your responsibility to keep up with these items, the chaperones/teachers/Martin Middle are not responsible for lost/damaged items.
- Please be sure to use the bus restroom only for emergencies. We plan to take periodic rest breaks and you should plan to use the facilities at those times.
- Food and beverages are allowed, but please keep food/drink items to sizes and quantities that can be easily stowed in a backpack or carry-on bag. ***all drinks must have a closeable, sealable, spill-proof lid
- 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 parent/chaperone first.

LUGGAGE GUIDELINES

- All luggage will be stored under the bus, and due to space limitations, each person on the bus 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 RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Please do not use the telephone in your hotel room except room to room or front desk calls. All other calls should be made on a personal phone. Any fee based telephone charges will be your personal responsibility upon checkout.
- We suggest that you leave expensive jewelry, and other such items at home, but if you do bring valuables (expensive electronics), 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 also minimizes the likelihood that you will lose something or find something missing when you return to your room.
- No students or chaperones allowed in the hotel pool area.
- In your packing be sure to pack your cell phone charger and be sure to charge it each night. Don't forget to take it with you. You may want to have a portable charger just in case.

MEALS AND MONEY

While each day has a few meals covered by the travel agency, there will be in addition meals and snacks daily that require students to have access to cash or card. Suggested amounts are listed below.

- **Day one** THURSDAY February 20th- Breakfast on the road (\$15), Lunch on the road (\$15), Dinner provided in Times Square TBD
- **Day two** FRIDAY February 21st- Hot Breakfast at hotel, lunch on the way to the next destination of tour (\$20), Dinner provided at Hard Rock Cafe.
- **Day three** SATURDAY February 22nd- Hot Breakfast at hotel, lunch on the way to another destination of tour (\$20), Dinner provided in Little Italy.
- **Day four** SUNDAY February 23rd- Breakfast at the hotel, lunch on the road (\$15), dinner on road (\$15)

There will be opportunities for shopping please plan accordingly. Also, students should of course pack snacks to have on hand. If students have any dietary restrictions they are responsible to independently communicate this to their director before February 20th.

WEATHER

Weather in NYC will most likely be very cold. Please pack accordingly, heavy jackets, gloves, hats, scarves, thick socks, winter shoes. Layers are necessary during this time.
DRESS FOR WINTER!

BROADWAY WORKSHOP

At the workshop you will be singing and dancing. It is recommended that you wear something comfortable to move in...leggings, sweats, t shirt, light jacket, if you have dance shoes you can wear them. There will be a place to change into these things.