

To: HS Band Parents and Students  
From: Mr. Wetmore  
Re: Spring Band Trip May 4-6, 2012  
Date: December 20, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

Plans are roughed in for our annual spring band trip. Because this is a musical year, the only date available to us is the first weekend in May. This coincides with the Wind Symphony's performance as the Honor Band at Superstate on May 4. I have looked for other open dates in the school calendar and also the concert schedules of the Chicago Symphony and the St. Louis Symphony and the May 4-6 date is the only date that works. During my tenure at Macomb I have always worked to insure a comprehensive musical experience for all of the students in the program. With the economy in the shape that it is this has become increasingly difficult. In addition, due to several tragic charter coach accidents in recent years, the Federal Transportation Safety Board has significantly reduced the number of hours that drivers are allowed to be on duty before having to take eight hours of mandatory down time. This has significantly affected the planning of this trip. In an attempt to reduce the cost of the trip, I have tried several times to work with the charter coach company to facilitate a one night stay in the hotel. With the cost of an additional set of drivers, hotel rooms and transportation costs for both sets of drivers, the savings was around \$10.00 per student. I have decided to stay with the two night plan found below. It will be as follows:

**Friday, May 4**

- Leave Macomb in the mid-morning or early afternoon of Friday May 4
- Wind Symphony and Concert Band (if selected) perform at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Illinois campus
- Travel after the Awards to the Drury Inn in Chesterfield, MO and stay over night

**Saturday, May 5**

- Saturday morning breakfast at the hotel as part of the package
- Sight Seeing in St. Louis on Saturday
- Supper downtown as part of the package
- St. Louis Symphony Concert
- A second night in the Drury Inn in Chesterfield, MO

**Sunday, May 6**

- Breakfast at hotel a second day
- Travel back to Macomb arriving late morning or early afternoon

The charter coach company has really tried to work with us on this one. The price for the charter coaches is exactly the same as last year. I think that is amazing considering the volatility of fuel prices this year. We also got a great rate on the hotel. The package does include charter coach transportation, St. Louis Symphony admission, supper on Friday evening, supper on Saturday evening and two breakfasts as part of the package. The only meals that the students are responsible for are the lunches on Friday and Saturday. We will plan to be home in time for lunch on Sunday. I think that safety factor of driving back Sunday morning is far superior to coming home late Saturday night, arriving at the high school around 2:00 am on Sunday

morning. The cost of the trip will be \$240.00 per student and \$175.00 per chaperone. If it is possible to reduce the cost of the trip, I will do so as we get closer to the time. We need to have over 100 students attending the trip to maintain these current rates.

I know that we have potential conflicts with the Math Team at state and the state Science Olympiad on this weekend. There are probably other conflicts that I am unaware of at this time. However, I need to make some very serious decisions about the trip immediately after we get back from the holiday break. Please use the attached form to indicate if you are planning to participate in this year's band trip. You can let me know of your decision either by using my school email account or returning the attached form by Thursday, January 5, 2012. Thanks so much for your help! I hope that all of the band families have a wonderful holiday!

Sincerely,

David Wetmore  
[wetmored@mcusd185.org](mailto:wetmored@mcusd185.org)

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Please detach and return to Mr. Wetmore by Jan. 5, 2012

Parental signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_