

Dear Band Parents and Students,

This Spring, we will be taking a bunch of deserving band students to Florida! The planned dates for the trip are March 9 - 15. At this time, the trip will include 2-day Park Hopper admission to Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure and 3-day Park Hopper admission to Walt Disney World (including the Magic Kingdom, Epcot Center, Disney - Hollywood Studios, and Disney's Animal Kingdom). The cost covers all transportation (Peoria Charter Coach Company), lodging at Disney's Caribbean Beach Resort, entry into both Disney and Universal, and meal cards that will allow them to eat anywhere on Disney Property. A mass Concert Band and both jazz bands will be performing at Walt Disney World. We are also planning to attend a performance of Cirque du Soleil!

As a music department, we feel trips are a reward to students for their hard work and dedication to the program. We also feel that the process of preparing for the trip is very valuable in the development of the camaraderie and "ownership" needed in a successful program. The trip itself gives all involved a great educational experience, life long memories and friendships, and develops pride in our program.

There are a few "givens" that must apply in order for our band to take a trip to represent North Scott:

- Students desiring to go on the trip must earn the opportunity **financially, musically, socially and academically**. Students must maintain at least a "C" in band at the first and second quarter, semester, and mid-term report of the third quarter to remain eligible for participation.
- Any student earning an "F" in **any** of their classes for a quarter or semester will not be eligible to participate in the trip. We really cannot justify taking students out of class for the trip if they are unable to complete the requirements of their academic classes.
- Please be aware that discipline problems either in or outside of school leading up to the trip may be cause for a review of student participation.

We have always had a very high percentage of our students participate and we will provide three very good fund raising opportunities so that all students can more easily afford to go. These are programs that allow the students to make quite a bit of money as long as they work hard to sell the items. The planned fundraisers are:

Quad City Dining Tour Books - sell for \$35, students earn \$10. We have these available for immediate sale. These are 2-for-1 coupons for many different restaurants in our area. A list of participating restaurants will be available. Due to the cost of these books, we must have payment up front before we give out the book. We have sold these books for several years and we consider them to be a great value. These will be available soon and will be sold during the 1st semester.

Music Booster Pizza Sales - students earn \$2.00 for each item sold. The boosters have sold Party Time Pizza, made by North Scott musicians and boosters, for many years. Profits from pizza, pies and cookie dough sales are given individually to the student selling them. Pizzas will be sold from September 4 - 18, and pizzas will be made and delivered on Saturday, November 1. Individual student amounts are deducted from total profits with the balance being divided equally among all students going on the trip. This is a great way to earn a great deal of money for the trip. Please be aware that all monies from the Pizza Sale must be turned in on time for the student to receive credit for the sales.

QSP Magazine Sales- VERY easy and user-friendly fund-raiser! All of the students have an opportunity to make money simply by registering on the QSP Website (go to [www.nsbands.com/tripcentral](http://www.nsbands.com/tripcentral) for detailed instructions and a direct link and entering in email addresses of people that may be interested in purchasing or renewing a magazine subscription). For those without internet, students may get booklets from us to fill out and return to us so they can get mailed out. This is such an EASY and lucrative fund-raiser, we hope everyone takes advantage of this opportunity!

A separate trip account is maintained for each student. Money earned by each individual goes into his/her account. Many returning students already have balances in these accounts. This balance is recorded at the bottom of this letter. If you have a financial concern regarding the trip, please contact us. We would like to make this trip possible for all band students.

We estimate that the cost of the trip should be between \$750-800 per student. At this point, we cannot give an exact cost, but we can assure you that it is one of our primary concerns. In fact, we bid and book everything ourselves so we (the students) don't have to pay extra tour company fees. We would like an initial payment of \$100 by September 8 as a deposit for the trip and 5 additional payments of ~\$130 (and/or fund-raising profits) each month through February. We will send out a balance letter at the beginning of each month or you can check with us as to your balance any time by calling 285-3316. Please make payments on time. Trips are very time consuming for us and it is much easier for us to make all the entries at one time. More specifics will be coming your way as we develop the itinerary.

The trip payment schedule will be as follows: (All checks should be made out to: **North Scott Band**) **Wednesday, September 8** - \$100.00 down payment/deposit is due, indicating participation. **Trip accounts may not be used for this payment.** Once we have final numbers, we will be able to give a definite total amount due for the trip and will adjust payments accordingly. After the down payment, all further payments will be reduced by amounts in student trip accounts. Due dates and approximate payments are:

<b>Wednesday, October 13</b> - \$130.00	<b>Wednesday, December 8</b> - \$130.00	<b>Wednesday, February 9</b> - \$130.00
<b>Wednesday, November 10</b> - \$130.00	<b>Wednesday, January 12</b> - \$130.00	

**The Trip Deposit of \$100 is due by Wednesday, September 8.**