

To: The RSD17 Board of Education

From: Donna Hayward, HKHS Principal

Date: December 7, 2023

Submitted for Board meeting dated: December 12, 2023

Re: Proposed Music Field Trip to Worldstrides Music Festival (Boston)

Purpose of memo: Board Action

Executive Summary: HKHS would like to offer the Worldstrides Music Festival opportunity to our students again. This is a festival that HKHS students participated in regularly until Covid. We are looking to return to "normal" with this programming. The trip would be scheduled for April 18 and 19, 2025 so would involve an overnight stay in Boston. We are requesting approval now so as to start planning and fundraising in order to reduce costs to families.

Special Note: We would require that all students purchase trip insurance for approximately \$40.

Board Action: We are requesting that the Board approve this field trip. Suggested motion would be: I move to approve the HKHS music field trip to the Worldstrides festival in Boston on April 18 and 19, 2025.

Relevant details:

- Cost is approximately \$700 per student
- Fundraising and planning would start immediately in order for families to support their student's travel

CC:

Board Administrator

Superintendent of Schools

Enclosures:

Field trip proposal document from Marcy Webster

Proposed H-K HS Music Trip to Boston, MA on April 18 & 19 2025

The HK Music Department is applying to the RSD 17 Board of Ed for permission to take our five performing ensembles to Boston, MA in April 2025 to compete in a music festival competition and participate in educational sightseeing and fine arts activities. The purpose of this trip is to provide our students with a professional adjudication experience giving them a chance to join together as an ensemble to communicate effectively while demonstrate excellence as singers and musicians. The festival will give our students rich and relevant feedback and will also work with each group in a workshop format. We will arrange for hotel accommodations in order to be able to attend the awards banquet and travel to areas in Boston such as the freedom trail and a theatrical/musical performance.

Main Points:

1. Prior to the COVID pandemic, The H-K Music department took an overnight trip to compete every two years to a Worldstrides festival. To keep costs affordable we rotated between NYC, Boston, and Philadelphia. We have not traveled since 2019 and want to offer this opportunity to our students again ASAP.
2. We choose Worldstrides Music Festivals because of the quality of their adjudicators, mini clinics, awards banquets, and range of participating schools.
3. Our goal is to keep the trip cost affordable for every family
 - a. About 15% of our students are siblings
4. We offer voluntary fundraising activities which some students have taken advantage of. It is not uncommon for a few students to pay for their trip with a fundraiser.
5. We book our vendors through Perkins Travel and they handle all negotiations, planning, etc. We also pay for a travel guide (roughly \$20 per student of cost) that is our liaison while we are away. They handle communication with vendors, troubleshoot during the trip, and free us up to handle student and chaperone issues.
6. Due to the Pandemic our travel company (Perkins Travel) recommends that every student purchase "Cancel for any reason" trip insurance which adds approx \$40 to the cost of the trip. We will make this a mandatory requirement of all travelers. We would also include a paragraph in the trip contract with language similar to: *The performance of the Agreement by either party shall be subject to force majeure, including but not limited to acts of God, fire, flood, natural disaster, war or threat of war, acts or threats of terrorism, civil disorder, unauthorized strikes, governmental regulation or advisory, recognized health threats as determined by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, or local government authority or health agencies (including but not limited to the health threats of COVID-19, H1N1, or*

similar infectious diseases), curtailment of transportation facilities, or other similar occurrence beyond the control of the parties, where any of those factors, circumstances, situations, or conditions or similar ones prevent, dissuade, or unreasonably delay at least 25 percent of prospective event attendees from appearing at the Hotel, or where any of them make it illegal, impossible, inadvisable, or commercially impracticable to hold the Event or to fully perform the terms of the Agreement. The Agreement may be cancelled by either party, without liability, damages, fees, or penalty, and any unused deposits or amounts paid shall be refunded, for any one or more of the above reasons, by written notice to the other party.

7. We only stay in name brand hotels (Hilton, Marriott) and pay for overnight security for our rooms/floors. Overnight bags are due to be dropped off to the high school 24 hours before we travel to be searched. We conduct a search of carry-on items and require all beverages and snacks to be sealed until they board the buses.

Trip Package: Approx \$700 per student with cancel for any reason trip insurance

Day 1 : Welcome to Boston!

- Arrival in Boston, Massachusetts:

Festival Performances: Festival performances run throughout the day at your event venue. After arriving at your concert venue, your group will warm up in a private rehearsal room. Each ensemble will perform for 15 minutes on stage. A panel of three adjudicators will provide written and recorded feedback for each performance. Following your performance, a select adjudicator will conduct a mini-clinic on stage with your group, providing valuable feedback and reinforcement for your classroom teachings. Groups will also have the opportunity to participate as an audience for other groups competing—giving your ensemble exposure to their peers.

Lunch (Included) on site: Brought in through Panera or similar vendor (pre-ordered and screen for allergies, etc.)

More festival performances: We have a total of five groups performing: Concert Choir, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Swing 14 Mixed Choir and Decca Select Women's Choir

-Dinner (Included): Sit down dinner at a local restaurant arranged through Perkins Travel.

- Blue Man Group : Enjoy this unique form of entertainment that combines music, comedy, and theatrics to create a blissful party atmosphere that people of all ages agree is a totally outrageous experience.

- **Hotel check-in:** We aim to arrive at the hotel around 9pm with lights out at 10:00pm. Chaperones are on duty from 10-11pm and then our personal security guards arrive and work from 11pm- 5am to patrol our hallways and have our students blocked by gender on different floors whenever possible.

Day 2 : Sightseeing and Awards Ceremony

- **Buffet breakfast at hotel:** Start your day off on the right note with an all-inclusive breakfast at your hotel!

- **Boston Duck Tour:** Board your Duck, an authentic World War II amphibious landing vehicle. You'll cruise by all the places that make Boston the Birthplace of Freedom and, just when you've seen it all, your Duck splashes into the Charles River for a breathtaking view of the Boston and Cambridge skyline.

- **Walking tour of historic Boston and lunch at Quincy Market** (student's pay for their lunch)

- **Gala Awards Ceremony, Dinner, and Dance:** Celebrate with new friends and old at your exclusive Awards Ceremony. Choirs, orchestras, and bands will be recognized for high scores within their class—plus standout individuals will be recognized for outstanding performances.

- **Head for home** -- approx arrival: 12AM.

SAMPLE TRIP CONTRACT

HKHS BAND & CHORUS 2023 TRIP CONTRACT

Please include \$125 DEPOSIT

Checks can be made out HKHS Music and please write student name on memo line.

Student name (Please Print) _____

By signing this contract I am agreeing to the following stipulations:

Prior to the trip I will:

1. Not back out of this commitment. My initial deposit indicates a promise to pay in full.
2. Maintain credit in performance ensemble course per school attendance policy.
3. Learn all of the music required for the performance.
4. Not be suspended from school between the signing of this contract and the dates of the trip. I understand that if I face disciplinary action which leads to school suspension I will forfeit my participation in this trip but will still be financially responsible for the remaining balance.

While on the trip I will:

5. Cooperate fully with chaperones, teachers, and all other authority figures.
6. Neither use nor have in my possession at any time alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or drugs of any kind.
7. Not enter the hotel room of students of the opposite sex.
8. Not enter the hotel room of anyone who is not part of our group.
9. Not incur any extra "charges" to the hotel room. This includes long distance phone charges, pay TV, room damage, and room service. If I damage any property, my parents and/or I will assume full financial responsibility. Please note that damage to any hotel room may be assessed equally.
10. Not participate in pranks or vandalism of any kind.
11. Be in my assigned room at curfew time, and remain in my assigned room until wake-up time (unless otherwise granted permission by an assigned chaperone).
12. Have proper identification (school ID) on me at all times.
13. Conduct myself courteously and appropriately at all times.
14. Abide by all decisions made by appropriate officials and obey all regulations listed above as well as any other regulations which may be implemented in the future by the group manager or by any other administrative official.

I understand that participation in the HKHS Band and Chorus Trip is a privilege and that participation will be forfeited if I fail to comply with any of the above rules. I further understand that administrative officials have the right to exclude me from participation for any reason. If I am excluded, I will be asked to return home, my parents and school officials will be notified, and my parents will be required to provide immediate transportation home.

I hereby acknowledge and accept the above rules regarding the 2023 HKHS Band and Chorus Competition Trip to Boston. I agree to abide by these rules and by all other policies which have been adopted, or which may be adopted in the future, by Mr. Stefano, Mrs. Webster and/or Mrs. Hayward regarding this event.

I understand that Mr. Stefano, Mrs. Webster and/or Mrs. Hayward have the discretion to make all decisions including but not limited to decisions regarding disciplinary matters and the final approval of students selected to perform.

The performance of the Agreement by either party shall be subject to force majeure, including but not limited to acts of God, fire, flood, natural disaster, war or threat of war, acts or threats of terrorism, civil disorder, unauthorized strikes, governmental regulation or advisory, recognized health threats as determined by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, or local government authority or health agencies (including but not limited to the health threats of COVID-19, H1N1, or

similar infectious diseases), curtailment of transportation facilities, or other similar occurrence beyond the control of the parties, where any of those factors, circumstances, situations, or conditions or similar ones prevent, dissuade, or unreasonably delay at least 25 percent of prospective event attendees from appearing at the Hotel, or where any of them make it illegal, impossible, inadvisable, or commercially impracticable to hold the Event or to fully perform the terms of the Agreement. The Agreement may be canceled by either party, without liability, damages, fees, or penalty, and any unused deposits or amounts paid shall be refunded, for any one or more of the above reasons, by written notice to the other party.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT: _____

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____

DATE: _____

_____ I would like to be considered to chaperone this trip.

Parent Name: _____