



Easton Area High School Instrumental Music Department

2601 William Penn Highway

Easton, PA 18045

(610) 250 2481 x 32214

Mr. Christopher Ballentine, Instrumental Music Director

ballentinec@eastonsd.org

2025 - 2026 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEW ORLEANS TOUR

Hello Band & Orchestra Families,

We are excited to share with you that our marching band and orchestra have the opportunity to travel again during the 2025 - 2026 school year. Next year, our program will be traveling to New Orleans, Louisiana, where both our marching band & orchestra will have performances. This experience is a result of the hard work many have put in to provide us with this unique opportunity. Each of your children continues to excel in rehearsals and bring pride to the community in our performances. Thank you for supporting them.

The reasons why we travel with our ensembles are as follows:

- 1. To provide educational opportunities to our students through performances/adjudications*
- 2. To bring recognition to our school district and music program*
- 3. To build a sense of community between the members of our groups*

When planning this trip, there are many different aspects we must consider, including:

- 1. School schedule*
- 2. Costs*
- 3. Performance schedules & availability*

All members of our marching band and high school orchestra (9-12) are invited to perform. The decision to take each group will be made independently based on the commitment forms that are returned. In order for each group to perform and learn as one, we need to field a representative group.

How is the location of the trip determined?

Many locations were considered during the planning process. In addition to the factors listed above, this tour provides a unique opportunity for our school district to be recognized, as it provides exceptional performances for both our band and orchestra.

What are the dates of the trip?

We will be traveling *Sunday, December 28 - Friday, January 02*. We will be busing to & from Louisiana.

How are the students housed in hotels?

Students sign up for rooms in groups of four. This will occur in the fall. Boys and girls are separated in the hotel and each room has a chaperone of the same gender. Girls and boys are not allowed in each other's rooms. Security is hired in the hotel to assure our students are safe and in their rooms in the hotels.

What is expected of our students?

School policies apply at all times, as this is a school trip. Students are expected to learn, practice, and rehearse in a way that brings pride to our school and program. We also expect our students to act respectfully and responsibly at all times and in all situations.

What is the cost of the trip?

As mentioned above, one of the considerations when planning a trip is cost. We want to ensure that every student has the opportunity to attend and we work to make sure the cost is as minimal as possible.

As we are nearly a full calendar year away from our trip, the estimated cost is between \$1,550 - 1,750. We hope to be able to stay on the lower end of the range once we have final numbers. This is a wide range, as we are waiting to confirm several vendor prices before finalizing costs. The more general fundraising we are able to do, the lower the trip cost becomes. We will continue to keep you updated along the way. Optional trip insurance will also be available. Our timeline for meeting our goals are as follows:

1. \$100 deposit with the attached commitment form, due by **January 10, 2025** (must be contributed by cash or check – deposit cannot be fundraised).

\$200 – March 1

\$300 – May 1

\$300 – July 1

\$300 – September 1

\$300 - November 1

Remaining \$\$ (est. around \$100) - December 1

Our trip will be all-inclusive, meaning students will not need to bring any additional money for meals, etc. Most students do, however, travel with additional money for souvenirs.

Fundraising

Beyond the initial deposit, students can meet our goals through fundraising or contributions to the IMA.

1. All of this fundraising information will be shared through IMA emails, along with in classes.
2. Reference the calendar at www.eahsmusic.org > calendar for fundraising dates

Please remember the financial magnitude of a trip for the IMA. General fundraising is crucial to providing us these valuable opportunities.

Below is a list of potential fundraising opportunities for your student, broken down by each contribution interval:

March 1:	May 1:	July 1:	September 1:	November 1:	December 1:
Shammy Shine	Noto’s Hoagies	Pierogies	March A Thon	First Flag Ads	Fruit Sale
March Forth	Spring Flowers	Daily Dollars	Mum Sale	Noto’s Hoagies	Wreath Sale
Raise Right	Raise Right	Raise Right	Raise Right	Raise Right	Raise Right
Gertrude Hawk	Gertrude Hawk	Gertrude Hawk	Gertrude Hawk	Gertrude Hawk	Gertrude Hawk

Reserving your spot on the trip

For us to reserve a space for you on the New Orleans tour, you must return the attached commitment form at the end of this letter to the gray lockbox in G214 with your payment BY **Friday, January 10, 2025.**

If at any point you have a concern regarding the cost, please see me so we can assist you.

In Closing & Thank You

It is our hope that this trip can be a positive experience for our students, families, and school district. As we work towards our goals, we can all grow stronger together as a program. Again, it is because of the hard work and dedication of many that we are able to provide our students with an opportunity like this.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at ballentinec@eastonsd.org or (610) 250-2481 extension 32214.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY - EAHS BAND/ ORCHESTRA - NEW ORLEANS

DAY 1: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

Students report to EAHS early afternoon
Final trip briefing/luggage search
Departure for New Orleans, LA on motor coaches!
Stops en route
Driver switch overnight

DAY 2: MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2025

Breakfast en route to New Orleans (\$\$ provided or stop at restaurant)
Lunch en route to New Orleans (\$\$ provided or stop at restaurant)
Arrive in New Orleans
Check into hotel
Dave & Buster's - arcade games & dinner buffet
Free time - hotel pool
Lights out - security guards on duty

DAY 3: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2025

Hotel Breakfast
Battle of the Bands - band competition
Boxed Lunch
French Quarter Performance @ Jackson Square
Sightseeing - New Orleans
Bayou Barn - dinner, dance, & immersion in Cajun culture
Return to hotel - security guards on duty

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025

Breakfast
College Clinic - orchestra/ Sightseeing (New Orleans) - band
Lunch @ Hard Rock Cafe
Sugar Bowl Parade
New Year's Eve Awards & Orchestra Performance
Dinner & Dance
Return to hotel - pizza & watch ball drop
Lights out - security guards on duty

DAY 5: THURSDAY, JANUARY 01, 2026

Breakfast

Natchez River Lunch Cruise

WWII Museum and/or other sightseeing opportunities

Sugar Bowl Game

Group meal & departure from New Orleans

DAY 6: FRIDAY, JANUARY 02, 2026

Breakfast en route to Easton (\$\$ provided or stop at restaurant)

Lunch en route to Easton (\$\$ provided or stop at restaurant)

Dinner (dependent upon ETA home)

**Easton Area High School Instrumental Music Department –
New Orleans Tour
Statement of Commitment**

*For us to reserve a space for you on the performance tour,
you must return this form to the IMA lockbox or mail to the address below with your \$100 deposit by January
10, 2025. Checks should be made payable to IMA.*

Instrumental Music Association
Easton Area High School
P.O. Box 3535
Easton, PA 18043

I, _____, commit to take part in the Easton Area High School Instrumental Music Department trip to New Orleans. No refunds will be given after any deposit/contribution is made to the IMA. Optional trip insurance will also be available. I realize that I must fully prepare for performances and I understand by signing this document, I am financially committing to the tour.

(Student Name - print)

(Parent/ Guardian Name - print)

(Student Signature)

(Parent/ Guardian Signature)

(Parent/ Guardian Email)

(Parent/ Guardian Phone Number)