



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
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2022 SPRING PERFORMANCES - MARCHING BAND

Hello Band Families,

We are excited to share with you two performance experiences for our marching band students in the spring of 2022. Our “Red Rover” marching band has officially been accepted to the largest & oldest parade in the country, the St. Patrick’s Day, held in New York City on Thursday, March 17, garnering over 1,000,000 spectators both in-person and on television. In addition, our band students will also have the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. for a long weekend trip to perform in the annual Apple Blossom Parade in Winchester, VA. It is because of the hard work of many that we are able to do what we do. 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 (9-12) will perform in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in NYC and have the opportunity to perform in the Washington D.C./ Apple Blossom tour. The decision to take our marching band will be made independently based on the commitment forms that are returned. In order for the 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, these opportunities provide a unique opportunity for our school district to be recognized, as it provides exceptional performances for our program.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this tour provides us with the opportunity to fulfill the reasons why we travel, while also being financially aware of the economic impact the pandemic has had on our families and our organization.

How are the students housed in hotels?

Students sign up for rooms in groups of four. Students are separated in the hotel by gender and each room has a chaperone of the same gender. 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.

Calendar

Please always check our calendar located at eahsmusic.org/calendar. This calendar will contain the most up to date information regarding rehearsals, meetings, fundraising dates, etc.

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. The marching band has two different opportunities for performance that will be broken down as follows:

- NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade - \$55 per person (cannot be fundraised)
- Washington D.C/ Apple Blossom Parade - \$450 - 475 per person (can be fundraised)
 - Includes 3 days worth of activities, transportation, meals, amusement park, & 2 hotel night stays

The total cost will depend on the number of students attending. Our ultimate goal is to keep the tour costs as low as possible, while providing our students with the best experiences.

Our timeline for meeting our goals are as follows:

1. \$55 NYC payment with attached commitment form (page 05), due **Friday, January 28, 2022** (must be contributed by cash, check, or online payment - cannot be fundraised)
2. \$50 Washington D.C. payment with the attached commitment form (page 06), due by **Friday, January 28, 2022** (must be contributed by cash, check, or online payment – deposit cannot be fundraised)
3. \$200 due Friday, February 18, 2022
4. \$100 due Friday, March 11, 2022
5. Remaining balance due Friday, April 08, 2022

The IMA must meet a specific payment schedule in order for us to attend this trip. Families who may experience financial difficulties in attending the tour are asked to email Mr. Ballentine prior to submitting a commitment form. 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.

Reserving your spot on the tour

For us to reserve a space for you on the Washington D.C and/ or New York City tour, you must return the attached commitment forms at the end of this letter to the gray lockbox in G214 (or complete online) with your payment BY **January 28, 2022**. Commitment forms can also be mailed to the IMA at:

*Instrumental Music Association
P.O. Box 3535
Easton, PA 18043*

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

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 as well as in classes.
2. Reference the calendar at eahsmusic.org/calendar 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. The following is a list of fundraisers that can apply towards each student contribution:

February 18:

March A Thon
Mum Sale
First Flag ads
Noto's Hoagies
Fruit Sale
Wreath Sale
Scrip Gift Cards

March 11:

March Forth
Shammy Shine Gift Cards
Scrip Gift Cards

April 08:

Food Coupons
Scrip Gift Cards

Parent/ Guardian Meeting

Please plan on attending a parent/ guardian meeting in the spring of 2022 to go over final details for the tour and to ask any questions before our departure. We will also have an informational meeting on **Monday, January 10 @ 7PM** via [zoom](https://zoom.us).

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. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, please understand the need for flexibility given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic.

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

NEW YORK CITY - ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Thursday, March 17

- 7:00 a.m. Depart Easton Area HS en route for NYC via motor coaches
- Packed breakfast to eat en route
- Arrive in NYC & prepare for the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade Performance in Parade
- Load & possible time to walk around NYC
 - Dinner provided on way home
- 7:00 p.m. Arrive home at Easton Area HS

WASHINGTON D.C./ APPLE BLOSSOM TOUR

Friday, April 29

- 7:00 a.m. Depart Easton Area HS en route for Washington D.C./ Six Flags America
- 10:00 a.m. Arrival at Six Flags America
Free time in the park
Students provided cash for lunch
- 6:00 p.m. Possible dinner together in park
- 7:30 p.m. Depart Six Flags America to travel to Tyson's Corner, VA hotel
- 8:30 p.m. Check in at hotel
- 11:00 p.m. Room checks/ Lights out
Security on duty

Saturday, April 30

- 7:00 a.m. Wake Up/ Breakfast at hotel
- 8:00 a.m. Depart hotel for Winchester, VA
- 10:00 a.m. Arrival in Winchester, VA for 95th annual Apple Blossom Parade
- 3:00 p.m. Depart Winchester for hotel
- 5:00 p.m. Arrival back to hotel in Tyson's Corner
Students change for dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Depart for Tour in Washington D.C.
- 11:00 p.m. Room checks/ Lights out
Security on duty

Sunday, May 01

- 7:00 a.m. Wake Up/ Breakfast at hotel
- 8:30 a.m. Possible time to site-see in Washington D.C.
- 1:00 p.m. Depart for Easton Area HS

**Easton Area High School Marching Band –
New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Statement of Commitment**

*For us to reserve a space for you on the performance tour,
you must return this form to the IMA lockbox, complete online, or mail to the address below with your \$55
payment by January 28, 2022.*

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 York City. No refunds will be given. 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)

**Easton Area High School Marching Band –
2022 Washington DC/ Apple Blossom 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, complete online, or mail to the address below with your \$50
deposit by January 28, 2022.*

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

Contribution Schedule:

\$50 deposit - January 28, 2022
\$200 - February 18, 2022
\$100 - March 11, 2022
Remaining Balance - April 08, 2022

I, _____, commit to take part in the Easton Area High School Instrumental Music Department trip to Washington D.C./ Apple Blossom Parade. No refunds will be given with the exception of the optional parent/guardian-purchased insurance policy. 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)