

Ireland Meeting Minutes 8/13/19

Itinerary extra information:

- *We leave for Ireland right after St. Patrick's Day. Students will be missing 4 days of school (the Friday is a teacher planning day).
- *We have 3 great concerts of Americana music (jazz, gospel, country, musical theater)
- *Tour is NOT limited to students. Chaperones and family members (age 21 and older) are welcome to come. Any chaperones will need to submit their names to DCPS and complete a background check (available on the DCPS website). All chaperones must follow DCPS rules and guidelines (for example: no drinking, smoking, intoxication in the presence of students)

Cost extra information:

- *Includes tips for the guides and bus drivers. Everything is wrapped in with the exception of lunches and souvenirs.
- *If the airline tacks on a random fuel surcharge at the end, that could change the price (but that is rare)
- *Cost estimates: We usually have 60-70 participants on our international tours (students & chaperones combined.) To figure out the cost estimate for groups larger than what is shown in the chart, simply double the numbers.
- *The flight is out of Orlando, direct. This is MUCH cheaper than flying from Jacksonville. We will meet IN Orlando. It saves us about \$800 per participant.
- *Land only means that you arrange your own flights, but everything else is included (for example, some people use their frequent flyer miles for the flight). Parents may NOT use their miles to send their child over on their own.

Scholarship Application extra information:

- *Recipients of this scholarship are NOT determined by Mr. Pendry or Ms. Moreau.
- *Forms will be submitted to guidance/administration to verify financial need. Only guidance and admin will have this information. Parents, you are welcome to add anything more to this form to further explain your financial situation if you would like.
- *Students must submit an essay along with the application filled out with financial information from parents. Parents, you're welcome to email the financial form in if you don't want the student to see the information you're providing. **All forms/applications/essays are due by Friday, August 16th @ 3:30pm. Students, do NOT put your name on the front or any identifying information within your essay.**
- *Scholarship recipients will be notified privately via phone call by Friday of next week, so please make sure the phone number is recent. If you receive the scholarship and are called, you still have the option of accepting or rejecting the scholarship based on what your family needs to do regarding the decision to travel internationally. If you do not accept the scholarship, we will move on to the next person on the list and offer the scholarship to the next person on the list.
- *There are NOT exclusions based on finances. While these scholarships are need based, it is *very* important that the students are fully vested in this process and answer the question fully in their essay.

Registration Packet extra information:

- *Do not call MCI (the tour company) directly if you have any questions. Please direct all questions to Mr. Pendry and Ms. Moreau.
- *Yes, people who live out of town can register and come on this trip.
- *SEPTEMBER 1ST – DEPOSIT AND REGISTRATION DUE**

QUESTION & ANSWER TIME!!!

- *Prices are based on DOUBLE occupancy. Single occupancy is available if you want to pay more.
- *You need to complete a registration for EACH person going on the trip.
- *Are students allowed to go off by themselves internationally? **NO. Students will always be accompanied by a chaperone.** We usually end up with a 1-1 ratio of students/adult during these trips. On a side note, Ireland is a very safe

place to complete travel at this time. They will never be left to their own devices. Adults keep the student passports for safe keeping.

*Travel between cities will be by coach. Each coach includes a tour guide and a bus driver. The tour guides help us in any situation that may arise! They're amazing!

*What happens if there's an injury? **The tour guides are able to help take care of all of that (i.e. England broken leg parent was brought to the hospital and back to the tour within 2 hours).** If it is a child who is injured and is traveling on their own, a director would also accompany the child.

*What about school work? **Our students will be missing 4 days of school. We always help make time for students to work on and through while on the tour.**

*Once we have solid numbers and the flight is booked, participants may NOT go on and try to edit their seats. This is a group booking and all is taken care of through our tour company.

*November 1st is the DEADLINE for COLOR COPIES of your PASSPORT. If you don't already have one, apply NOW.

*If your passport is set for renewal, it has to be valid for 6 months on either side of the trip (if you're renewing). If you're applying for a new passport, this does not apply to you.

*For students not traveling with a parent, is that an issue? **Solo student travelers will not be harassed for traveling "on their own".**

*On the passports, current time is 6-8 weeks for passport applications.

*Fundraisers: Currently, we have one fundraiser planned for each month. Profit from fundraisers go towards the student's vocal fees FIRST. Any surplus above what is due towards a child's vocal fee can be applied towards payments by doing the following: Write an email to Mr. Pendry/Ms. Moreau to notify of your desire to transfer those funds to MCI to go towards your payment. Our September fundraiser is Cheesecake/Cookie Dough (40% profit). One of the BEST fundraisers we have is "Stock In Me"...this is a 100% profit fundraiser (we will be doing this fundraiser in October). Fundraiser money can be applied towards the next monthly payment with your email authorization.

*We will let you know the profit amount for each fundraiser as they roll out.

*We can send out an email with the list of all of the fundraisers we are planning for this month.

*Fundraiser profit can only be applied towards the trip. It cannot be used as spending money.

*Funds given towards the trip that are earmarked for a specific student are NOT tax deductible.

*If businesses would like to donate towards the ENTIRE group through corporate giving, that gift WOULD be tax deductible.

*Cost Exclusions: Luggage fees? **We are traveling through Air Lingus and typically get 2 bags checked as part of the ticket price.**

*Will there be other middle schools joining with LaVilla on this trip? **No, this is a LaVilla Vocal Department International trip. We will, however, be performing with other schools on some joint concerts while we were out there.**

*When will we know HOW MANY people are going on the trip so we can better know the cost of the tour? **Everything is due by September 1st through the registration website. On Tuesday, September 3rd, we will receive all of the "I am going on this trip" notices from the students we see in class. We will check our papers vs. the online registrations with MCI to verify who is going on this trip with us and will be able to let you know quickly thereafter.**

*Which choirs and which grades are involved? **Chorus 3 students, in Pendry 3A and Moreau 7B are invited to participate in this trip. These students are 7th and 8th grade students, with one 6th grade student in Mr. Pendry's chorus.**

***Profit from fundraisers can only be used towards the cost of the trip for the student.**

*Tip: Make sure each participant (student or chaperone) is able to carry his/her own luggage on their own.

*About how long are the concerts? **Our students will sing about 45 minutes of music and combine with another school who is also offering about 45 minutes of music to make the joint concerts.**

*Passport photos: FEDEX on San Jose has bee

***Director emails: Shawn Pendry: pendrys1@duvalschools.org Theresa Moreau: moreaut@duvalschools.org**