

Battlefield High School Orchestras

2018 Spring Trip Info. Packet

Los Angeles, California



About

In the Spring of 2018, Battlefield High School Orchestra students have the opportunity to travel to Los Angeles, California! We will perform in downtown Los Angeles, see a performance of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, spend a day at Disneyland, a day at Universal Studios, and a day in Hollywood.

This trip is completely optional, but we hope all interested families will be able to join us this year! All Battlefield Orchestra students are invited to participate, regardless of grade or orchestra class level.

Preliminary Itinerary

The trip runs from Thursday, March 22nd – Monday, March 26th. We will leave after school on Thursday. Participating students will receive an excused absence from school on Friday.

A preliminary itinerary is included below. While this itinerary is subject to change, a detailed, finalized itinerary will be released as soon as it is available (we are hoping to have this ready by January).

At the moment, our flight departs Dulles at 5:45PM on Thursday. Our return flight is expected to return to Dulles at 3:45PM on Monday.

On Friday, we are scheduled to spend the day with a park hopper pass at Disneyland in Anaheim, CA. Saturday is our expected performance in Los Angeles. We will also tour Hollywood and finish the day by attending a performance of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Sunday has us in Universal Studios, and then returning on Monday.

*Please note that this itinerary is subject to change.

Pricing

The total cost of the trip is \$1,920.00 or less (last payment may be adjusted down depending on how variable expenses play out). The cost of the trip is paid across four installments. The payment schedule is found below*:

Friday, October 20th: \$500.00

Friday, November 17th: \$500.00

Friday, January 12th: \$500.00

Friday, February 9th: \$420.00 OR LESS

*****Please make sure to find the “Payment Submission Form” on School Messenger and send this in with each installment. This is essential to our record keeping – thank you!*****

Food is not included in this cost, as we like to allow families to set their own budget for this expense.

*In most circumstances, extensions can be provided on payment deadlines when needed. Please contact me at saundez@pwcs.edu before the payment due date should you need to arrange for a payment extension.

Chaperones

Since we are traveling to a city, we would like to have many chaperones to keep group sizes small. The price is reduced for chaperones this year. The total cost for chaperones is \$1,000.00. Chaperones should be a family member and at least 23 years old, please. The payment schedule is the same as the one listed above for students, but you would add \$250.00 to each payment to cover the cost of the chaperone. Thank you for considering helping with our spring trip!

After-School Rehearsals

Since we are performing, participants will have to attend three after-school rehearsals before the trip. The dates for these rehearsals will be released in November, when our spring calendar is complete and ready to be published. Attendance at these rehearsals is required for participants.

Important Cancellation and Payment Refund Information

Please read this very carefully as it contains important information about trip cancellation, requests for refunds, etc.

As with any trip, there is a chance of cancellation. Student safety is our number one priority. As a result, Battlefield High School, Prince William County Schools, and the Prince William County School Board reserve the right to cancel the trip.

In the event of the trip being cancelled, any moneys refunded to the school will be divided proportionally amongst participants. For example, if the school received a 70% refund, each participant would receive a 70% refund.

Most importantly, if the school does not receive a refund from our vendors, it will not be possible to provide any refund to families. We certainly hope this is not a situation we encounter, but want everybody to be prepared for the worst case scenario.

If a participant chooses to withdraw from the trip after a payment has been made, any money already paid is non-refundable. This is because the school is not refunded money by our travel agency in these circumstances. To secure the lowest price, many items are booked and paid for up to six months in advance.

If a participant is thirty or more days behind on a payment, we reserve the right to consider the participant withdrawn from the trip unless prior arrangements for a late payment have already been made. Money is not refundable in this circumstance. For example, if we have already used the money submitted in the participant's first payment to pay for lodging, but an excessively late second payment prevents us from securing the participant a plane ticket on the group flight, we cannot let the participant travel with us as we would not be able to provide supervision on the flight nor would we have the resources to reimburse the participant for lodging we have already paid for.

If a participant is banned from attending this trip for an academic/disciplinary reason or as a result of any other form of administrative action, any money already paid is non-refundable.

What happens if PWCS is closed for weather conditions on the day we depart?

PWCS does not allow trip departures if schools are closed "CODE RED". If schools are closed "CODE GREEN", trips are considered on a case by case basis.

If our trip was cancelled as a result of school closure, it would most likely yield a situation where refunds would not be possible as our vendors are paid in advance to secure the lowest possible rate. For example, by booking our hotel as soon as possible using a non-refundable rate, we save countless dollars.

It is my hope that the selected date range (March 21st -25th) achieves a compromise that minimizes the chances weather will impact our trip while avoiding interfering with SOL and AP test preparations.

Is financial assistance available for families who may need it?

The trip to Los Angeles is, of course, a big expense. A big trip is being offered this year simply because a relatively large quantity of families expressed an interest. Many older students have worked over the summer or are working during the school year to save up for a major travel expense such as this one. It is certainly not expected that every student will be able to participate.

In order to offer a more affordable trip option to interested families, we are also planning a day trip to Busch Gardens this year to perform in a competition and enjoy the theme park. This trip will likely be in late

spring on a Saturday and the estimated cost is \$100.00 or less (to cover the bus and the park tickets). More details will be released as soon as they become available.

Students can participate in orchestra fundraisers to raise money for their trip accounts. We have currently scheduled a “Pie Sale” in October (with pies delivered by Thanksgiving) and a “Cookie Dough” fundraiser in January/February. If, for example, a student were to sell 20 pies, and the profit margin was set at \$5.00 a pie, the student would have a total of \$100.00 to offset the price of their trip. The average participant seems to be able to fundraise around \$200.00 for their trip accounts each year, although some have fundraised \$800.00 or more.

I would like to participate in this trip. What do I do next?

1. Submit your first payment by Friday, October 20th.
2. Please include the “Payment Submission Form” and the “PWCS Cancellation Notice” with your payment. Both of these forms are attached to this document.
3. Please provide payment in the form of a check made payable to “Battlefield High School”. To best protect your money, we ask families to please **not** submit cash payments.

1st PAYMENT SUBMISSION FORM:

***TURN IN ALONG WITH PAYMENT DUE ON 10/20/2017**

Total Due: \$500.00

Date Due: Friday, October 20th, 2017*

*A deadline extension can be made for families who request one in advance of the due date.

Student Name: _____

Please staple a check for the amount of the first payment (\$500.00) to this form.

Normally, there would be a space here to apply trip account money to your payment. Because fundraisers have not yet started, it is not included on this version of the form.

Please read carefully and sign below:

I have read and agree to the terms set forth in the **2018 Spring Trip Info. Packet** (available on SLMS and at www.battlefieldorchestras.com).

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

*****PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU READ THE INFO. PACKET CAREFULLY BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR PAYMENT AS IT DISCUSSES IMPORTANT REFUND POLICY INFORMATION!*****

BATTLEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Field Trip Cancellation Notice

As the parent/guardian of _____, I understand that
(print student's name)

in the event the Prince William County School Board cancels our planned trip to

Los Angeles, CA for any reason, I will not hold the

Prince William County School Board or Battlefield High School responsible for any

reimbursement of monies committed to agencies or vendors for this field trip.

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date