



NAME _____

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MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Evelyn Champion, Suzanne Grant, and Christy Naughton, Directors

Dear 7th Grade Parents,

The Northwestern Band, Chorus and Orchestra have been selected to be part of the Carowinds Music Festival! We will travel to Charlotte, NC to perform on **April 28-29, 2023**. We would like to assure you that your child's safety while traveling is our first concern. We have had a great deal of experience with performing groups on overnight trips and there will also be Fulton County certified chaperones monitoring the students. The Carowinds parks are very safe for teenagers; there will be open cell phone communication between directors, students, and chaperones while we are in the parks. Students are never left unsupervised in the hotel. Students will be required to abide by all Northwestern MS and Fulton County Schools policies on this trip, including use of language, personal displays of affection, and the dress code. Likewise, we will also follow all COVID mitigation protocols that are in place at the time of the trip for Fulton County Schools, Northwestern MS, and the Carowinds theme parks.

The behavior expectations will be reviewed extensively with students before the trip and a contract will be published with the other trip documents. Students who do not abide by the rules or who are late to meeting points while traveling will lose time in the parks or will receive the same disciplinary consequences as if we were in school. To keep our trip supervision closely monitored, students who travel with us are required to stay with our group exclusively, and with their assigned chaperone. For student safety, students on our trip may not spend time with parents or other friends/relatives while we are in North Carolina, either in the hotel or in the parks.

If your child has motion sickness, acrophobia, agoraphobia, claustrophobia, fear of loud noise (fireworks), panic attacks, or may be in any way unable to participate in theme parks, please consider becoming a chaperone for your child for this trip. Please contact your child's director if you would like chaperone. We want everyone to be able to enjoy their Carowinds experience.

Additionally, all seventh-grade students are required to meet the behavior and participation guidelines listed below in order to participate in the trip. We will be in continual communication with parents regarding any student who is not meeting these expectations. If you have questions about these expectations, please talk with your director.

Daily Participation- All students must meet the daily behavior, participation, practice, and performance expectations in their music class and throughout their school day. Students must be in good standing with all of their teachers to travel to Carowinds with their music class. Parents will be notified, and students who do not meet the minimum expectations will not be invited to travel.

Performance Attendance- Music classes are performing ensembles, and as such, regular attendance at rehearsals, clinics, and concerts is a necessity to ensure a quality, rewarding musical experience. The invitation to perform at Carowinds is a privilege and is considered a reward for the students' continued commitment to the music class. Students are expected to attend all extra-curricular rehearsals, performance evaluations, clinics, and concerts throughout the year. Please refer to your student's performance calendar and syllabus for guidelines for excused/unexcused absences. Unexcused absences from performances or workshops can result in your child not being able to attend the trip.

Behavior- Students who earn school suspension (ISS or OSS) may not be allowed to travel. Students who have displayed a pattern of misconduct, had a major infraction(s), and/or have been suspended from school may lose the privilege to attend the trip. The principal and assistant principal will have the final decision about student participation in any school field trip.



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School Attendance- students may not have chronic unexcused absences from school.

Grades- Students must maintain an A in their music class and pass all their other classes to travel.

Refunds- No refunds will be given according to the policy determined by Creative Group Tours.

We will leave at 5:30am Friday, April 28, 2023 and perform in the Carowinds park that afternoon. Students must be at the bus loop by 5am wearing their NMS Music T-shirt and any jeans, pants or shorts they prefer with comfortable shoes. They will wear this attire for the entire day. We will not have access to luggage to change until we arrive at the hotel at the end of the evening. We will return to NMS on Saturday, April 29, 2023 around 11:30pm. The complete trip itinerary will be finalized and published after we receive our performance times from Carowinds Music Festival.

The cost for the trip will be between \$275 and \$310 per student, depending on how many people participate (the range is due to the fixed cost of the bus, no matter how many people ride on each bus). The first NON-REFUNDABLE payment is \$150.00 and is due by **Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:45am**. The exact amount of the final payment will be determined after we have commitments from everyone who is traveling- it will be between \$125 and \$160. The cost of the trip includes transportation on a charter bus equipped with a bathroom, 1 night lodging, 2 days admission to Carowinds parks, 2 Carowinds meal cards, one for each park day, and a breakfast buffet at the hotel Saturday morning. Students will need some spending money for souvenirs and additional meals. Students will be housed 4 to a room.

Roommates will be chosen by students as soon as the trip deposit deadline passes. It is the student's responsibility to share their roommates' names with their parents. Please discuss roommate decisions with your child prior to committing to the trip as we will be unable to change student rooms once the trip roster is finalized.

Our tour company, Creative Group Tours, will handle the payments. Please login to their website <https://CGTPay.com> using the account number ***** and pin number ***** and make your deposit payment of \$150. This is a unique login for ***** , please keep this login handy for the final payment in February. The deposit payment deadline and permission slip deadline is FIRM. We will assume that students who do not pay the deposit AND return the permission form are not planning to travel. The permission slip must be submitted to your director by the deadline of **Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:45am**. The final student payment amount will be published as soon as possible, and will be due **Friday, February 3, 2023 at 11:45am**. Please pay ONLY \$150 at this time as the final amount has not yet been established and we are unable to issue refunds for overpayment. Chaperones, once approved, will receive their own account and PIN number. Please do not pay under your child's account. **Please save one copy of this letter until the trip.**

We will have a mandatory parent meeting (please, no students or other children) on **Tuesday, March 28, 2023 from 6-7 p.m.** to go over the details of the trip including the required paperwork. We will have a Spanish translator available at the meeting. This meeting is REQUIRED in order for your child to travel with us.

Please return this entire packet with the student name and parent initials or signature on each page by **Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:45am** if your son or daughter will attend this trip. We look forward to traveling and performing with your child. Please do not hesitate to contact your director at any time if you have questions.

Evelyn Champion
Orchestra Director

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Suzanne D. Grant
Chorus Director

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Christy Naughton
Band Director

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Northwestern Music Department Carowinds Performing Arts Trip COMMITMENT FORM

PRINT PARENT NAME _____

_____ YES, my son or daughter will attend the Carowinds trip with the Northwestern Music Department on April 28-29, 2023. I have read the attached letter in its entirety. I understand a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit payment of \$150 must be paid online by the January 6 deadline and that we are committed to the trip and the remaining payment once I have paid the initial \$150. I understand that we cannot get a refund at any time for any reason. Additionally, if my child does not meet the minimum expectations/requirements specified on pages 1 and 2 of this letter, he or she will not be allowed to participate in the trip.

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

CANCELLATION POLICY- *please read carefully!*

You may choose to purchase individual trip insurance from the company of your choice. One such company is Generali Travel Insurance. You can insure your child's trip at www.generalitravelinsurance.com for a small fee which is paid directly to Generali. By signing below you agree to purchase the trip insurance on your own or to hold Creative Group Tours, the Fulton County School District, Northwestern Middle School, and the music director(s) harmless for cancellation due to pandemic, severe weather or natural disaster, extreme illness or injury, death in the family, national crisis, or any other unforeseen circumstances or event that prevents the trip from taking place.

Additionally, the Fulton County School District, Northwestern music directors, Creative Group Tours, or Northwestern Middle School will not refund the cost of the trip if you are unable to attend for ANY reason, including those above or an unavoidable schedule conflict, death in your family, injury or illness that prevents your child from traveling, or severe disciplinary infraction that prohibits your child from traveling with the group (Fulton County Policy). If you purchase trip insurance, you would be responsible for filing a claim directly to your trip insurance company in the event your child cannot go on the trip. Please be aware that all circumstances may not be covered by the trip insurance. By signing below you agree that in the event of a cancellation, ***you will NOT initiate a credit card charge-back***, nor will anyone in your household.

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____