



RHHS Mighty Hawk Band Trip Policy 2008 - 2009

Why Do We Take Spring Trips?

Every year, the Rockwall Heath High School Bands will take a spring trip. The purposes of a spring trip are:

1. To provide our students with a unique performance or competition opportunity that is unlike any that they would experience at other times of the year (such as Carnegie Hall or other nationally-known venues)
2. To provide our students with a life-experience through traveling that will contribute to their educational growth and maturity.
3. To reward each student for the many hours of hard work and service that they provide for their school and community
4. To strengthen unity between all students and to provide a bonding experience.

When and How Are Spring Trips Planned?

Spring trips are planned according to the schedule of the performance venue and/or the travel company used. Most spring trips are scheduled sometime between late-March through early May. At Rockwall Heath, we will alternate year to year with an out of state trip and an in-state trip.

Who Pays for The Trip?

Students and parents are expected to pay for their spring trips. There are no district monies available for extra-curricular spring trips.

Are There Scholarships and Fund Raising Projects Available?

Yes, most certainly! The band booster organization provides many opportunities **for students to earn** the money for their trips. Each year, students earn ALL of their trip fees through booster-club sponsored fund raising projects. Scholarship money is also available for students who have specific financial needs however a parent meeting must be set up prior to ANY scholarship being awarded.

As with all scholarship opportunities, any students who accept financial assistance from the band or the RHHS Band Booster Organization will be expected to sign a contract stating that they will agree to the following conditions:

1. They will participate in fund raising projects to help off-set their scholarship.
2. They will remain a member of the RHHS Mighty Hawk Band during the school year following the spring trip. Students who receive financial aide are expected not to quit band at the end of the school year.

Are Students Required to Participate in Spring Trips?

No, however everyone must understand how this works. As mentioned earlier, we never take a trip that is not associated with a performance. If we did not have some sort of functional attendance policy, it would be a wild guess each year if the bands would have enough students to perform. It would not be fair for the students who go to perform to be penalized because several members of their band didn't want to go. Therefore, we have developed the following policy that

should help maintain the integrity of the performing ensembles AND allow for students who do not wish to participate in the spring trip to still be in the RHHS Band Program:

1. Students who wish to be in the Wind Ensemble OR the Symphonic Band (Band #1 or #2) must agree to participate in the spring trip.
2. Students who do not want to participate in the spring trip will be expected to participate in the Concert Band.
3. All three bands will participate at all of the other contests, including UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest. In the event that not enough Concert Band students choose to participate in the spring trip, these students may be expected to learn the Symphonic Band music program and may perform with the Symphonic Band on the trip. Our wish is for ALL RHHS BAND STUDENTS to participate in the spring trip so that every band has a positive performance experience.
4. Students who do not wish participate in the spring trip will perform with the Concert Band and all other contests and performances—they will just not be required to perform on the spring trip.

What Does This Accomplish?

Mainly, this provides us with a fair way to manage and plan for a successful spring band trip. Students who do not wish to participate are not forced to take part and students who do wish to participate may do so without being penalized. What we must avoid is the age-old situation of “wanting to have our cake and be able to eat it too,” by not participating yet insisting on being placed one of the top two performing ensembles.

-----**CONTRACT AGREEMENT**-----

Please complete the information below, have both the parent and student sign and date on the appropriate line, and return this complete contract to the band office no later than Thursday, June 5th, 2008. You may wish to make a copy of this contract for your personal records.

I understand the terms and conditions of this contract and agree to allow my student to perform in the spring trip. If he/she should qualify for the Wind Ensemble or the Symphonic, please schedule him/her accordingly.

I also understand that if my student receives any financial aide for the spring trip, a parent-teacher conference will be scheduled prior to the dedication of any funding and I agree to have my student participate in band or booster club-sponsored fund raising projects to offset the expenses of his/her scholarship.

I understand the terms and conditions of this contract however my band student will not participate in the spring trip. I understand that he/she will be placed into the Concert Band during the second semester of the school year.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date