



West Shore Music Department Virginia Trip 2025

Dear Cedar Cliff and Red Land Music Department parents,

The West Shore High School Music Department is excited to officially announce (pending board approval in June) our Virginia Concert Tour April 24-27, 2025. This trip is open to all Red Land or Cedar Cliff honors-level ensemble students who perform during the 2024-25 school year. These ensembles are Chamber Singers, Chorale (CC), Orchestra, Treble Choir (RL), and Wind Ensemble. The trip highlights include a Festivals of Music performance and adjudication, observing the Virginia International Tattoo Festival, visiting some historical sites, and a day at Busch Gardens.

The Tattoo Festival is an incredible opportunity for our students to be music consumers in an absolutely unique way. *“You and your students will be inspired by the artistry of more than 850 performers from around the world. You’ll see military bands, drill teams, pipers and dancers from all over the world – plus many favorite groups from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and more. It’s an awe-inspiring spectacle of music and might, and a great way for your students to discover and discuss the customs and cultures of other nations.”*

Because ticket costs and registration fees have not been finalized yet for 2025, the final cost of the trip is still in flux; however, we anticipate the student cost of the trip being between \$785-\$825. This cost covers coach busing, hotel accommodations, registration fees, tickets, some meals and more. Please refer to the attached itinerary for more details. Everyone will be notified of the exact final cost by February 28th, 2025 and the final deposit will reflect that amount. To qualify to attend, students must be in good financial standing with the Music Boosters with regard to other financial obligations.

The first deposit for all students and interested parents will be due on Friday September 13th in the amount of \$100. This is a non-refundable initial deposit; all further deposits will be refundable up until January 10th, 2025. **Please see the deposit schedule on the Virginia Trip Timeline and/or payment slips for details regarding when each deposit will be due.** Students and parents are welcome to pay the full sum at any time prior to the final March 7th, 2025 deadline; the minimum amounts due must be paid at each deposit date until the trip is paid in full. Parents should look at the parent sheet later in this packet for parent cost. **Full payment is required prior to trip departure.**

The West Shore Music Boosters have already offered and will continue to offer excellent fundraisers to help those students who would like to defray a portion of the cost of their trip. Parents are encouraged to become members of the Boosters in order to better support our students, throughout this year and every year.

Please be aware that, in accordance with school district policy, any student declared ineligible for any or all of the trip dates will not be permitted to participate in the trip. To be eligible, a student must be passing the equivalent of four full credits. For underclassmen, this typically means they can be failing one, but not more than one course. Some juniors and seniors only take four or less courses and they cannot fail any classes. Students and parents will be notified in advance of eligibility timeline: it is very likely to be final marking period 3 grades.

In addition, students may be removed from the trip roster for disciplinary reasons or by failing to be in good standing within their music ensemble (failing to attend concerts or take playing/singing tests). Students must maintain a 90% or higher in all music classes/ensembles in order to attend. Failure to do so will result in being unable to attend the trip. Families are highly encouraged to research and buy travel insurance for this trip; because travel insurance is not for everyone, we did not want to add it as a blanket cost to everyone's trip. However, in the event of unforeseen circumstances, travel insurance would help protect your payments for this trip. Travel insurance is available through most insurance companies, likely your homeowners and auto insurance providers.

We hope you will give careful consideration to this endeavor. Students & family members who plan to attend the trip are required to do three things to register: Complete the registration form using the QR code, turn in the physical permission slip to your ensemble director, AND return the **\$100 deposit with payment slip** to the **TRIP BOX** at their school by September 13th. If you have any questions about the trip, please feel free to contact your music directors.



Sincerely,

Morgan Hackett – Cedar Cliff Orchestra
Matt Topping – Cedar Cliff Choirs
George Clements - Music Department Chair/Cedar Cliff Bands

Mary Lyle-Lepley – Red Land Orchestra
Caitlin Shepski – Red Land Choirs
Robert Starrett – Red Land Bands