



Legacy High School Bands

Macy's Trip Update!

July 7, 2011

Dear Band Students and Parents,

It's been a few months since our last letter, so we wanted to give you an update on the Legacy Marching Band's participation in the **2011 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**. We have had a number of new students and followers join us, and we've firmed up several aspects of the trip, including additional itinerary information. **There is a lot of new information sprinkled throughout this memo, so please read thru it in its entirety.**

As of this writing, we have just over 200 total attendees: 126 students, including a number of our new freshmen, and 78 adults/followers. It may be possible to still join, availability permitting, but as we'll discuss below, we've blocked our flights and have purchased reserved tickets for our 2 big shows, so if you are still contemplating adding, we encourage you to make your decision ASAP, and we will do our best to get you in.

Payments and Payment Schedule:

The next payment for ALL participants will be \$450/person due August 17th.

The final payment of the remaining balance (estimated still at \$450) will be due Friday Sept 23rd.

It is important that all payments be received on or before the due date. Each payment is aligned with a payment we must make to the tour company. **FAILURE TO MAKE A PAYMENT BY THE DUE DATE WILL RESULT IN YOU OR YOUR STUDENT IMMEDIATELY BEING DROPPED FROM THE MACY'S ROSTER.** We regret there can be no exceptions.

All payments should be made by check (made payable to *Legacy Band Boosters*), cash, or through ISA transfer request. Please put the method of payment in an envelope and deposit it in the Band room Booster Box.

Pricing Update:

We have now received near-final pricing and continue to anticipate it being approximately \$1700/person for the full package, quad occupancy. Final pricing will be communicated by Sept 5th and may reflect any price increases or fuel surcharges, if assessed.

Itinerary:

As we've discussed, this is an incredible honor and a wonderful opportunity for students to visit a city of great historical and cultural significance. We will leave on Sunday, November 20, 2011 and return on Friday, November 25, 2011.

We have now confirmed our shows and secured tickets for everyone who has signed up so far for:

- The Rockettes Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall
- The Broadway production of Phantom of the Opera (if you're never seen it staged on Broadway you're in for a treat!)

High Level Daily Itinerary:

Sunday Nov 20th:

- Flights out to NY/NJ
- Hotel checkin

Monday Nov 21st:

- Rehearsal in the morning
- Sightseeing to Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, Times Square, World Trade Center site, Chinatown, Little Italy
- Rockettes holiday show at Radio City Music Hall

Tuesday Nov 22nd:

- Rehearsal in the morning
- Sightseeing to NBC Studios, Top of the Rocks Observation Deck, PM sightseeing on your own in groups
- Dinner together
- Phantom of the Opera on Broadway!

Wed Nov 23rd:

- Walk the parade route
- Full marching rehearsal at the Meadowlands
- Early dinner together at the hotel, and early to bed

Legacy High School Bands

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Thursday Nov 24th:

- Early to rise for run-through and taping between 3-4AM!
- March in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade!!
- Thanksgiving Day dinner together at hotel, then TBD

Friday Nov 25th:

- Flights back to Denver

Flight Information:

We will be flying Southwest Airlines since they have given us good bulk rates, handle groups well and don't charge for luggage. However due to the size of our group and the time of year, they cannot block an entire flight for our group. **We will be spread over 3-4 different flights each way.** Some flights will be direct, some will have 1 connection. Therefore we will be leaving and arriving in waves throughout the travel days. Students and followers will be assigned to specific flights, but those assignments will not be made until September. We are going to try to keep the students and chaperones together on the earliest flights, so some followers will not be with their students.

If you are doing the Ground Package, we will not know what flight your students will be on until September, so make your own travel plans now and just plan to meet us at the hotel.

Hotel Accommodations:

We will be staying at the Hilton Hasbrouck Heights, 650 Terrace Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights NJ. Phone 201-288-6100. If you make your own flight arrangements for different arrival/departure dates you should contact the hotel directly to extend your stay. Recent pricing at the hotel via online mechanisms has been \$150-200/night but will undoubtedly increase. The students will be in same-sex rooms, 4 to a room.

As mentioned, the pricing provided is for **QUAD-OCCUPANCY** (4 to a room) for both students and followers. Rates for other follower occupancies are as follows:

- Triple Occupancy approximately \$1800/person (increase of ~\$100/person)
- Double Occupancy approximately \$1900/person (increase of ~\$200/person)
- Single Occupancy approximately \$2200/person (increase of ~\$500/person)

Followers, if you wish something other than quad-occupancy, you will need to let me know no later than the next payment (by Aug 17th) of your desires. Let me know sooner if you already know what you want to do.

Ground Option:

For those participants making their own flight arrangements and/or arriving/leaving on different dates than the band, the tour company is offering a Ground-Only option. Its price will be approximately \$1300/person (quad occupancy). **This is still an estimate.**

Note: If you elect this option it is very important that **YOU MUST ARRANGE YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND HOTEL.** Your covered itinerary will start and end at the hotel; you will NOT be able to take the band's local transportation between the airport and hotel in either direction, even if you arrive/depart at nearly the same times. No Exceptions.

To keep it simple, **participants taking the Ground Option will still make the same 4th payment in August like everyone else** but will be informed of their final balance prior to their 5th payment.

Custom Itineraries or Flight Options

Due to the complexities of trying to accommodate custom flight options and/or different departure/arrival dates, the tour company will NOT be able to accommodate any such requests for followers.

If students have a need for different return flights (all students will take the same outgoing flight), they should let us know prior to the 4th payment, and we will pass your information on to the Tour Company who will then work with you directly on the schedule change. **If there is a higher charge for the different flight, you will be responsible for paying that difference** directly to the tour company.

Cancellation Policy

The Cancellation Policy remains as was conveyed in the first (December) letter. Note, the tour company has already begun to make event reservations for us. As stated in the original letter, if you cancel, you will be liable for the price of any event tickets already purchased which cannot be returned in addition to the non-refundable portion of your payments, per the original cancellation policy. The earlier letters are posted on the March to Macy's website at: <http://legacybands.org/macys/macysparade.html>

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Followers

Any parents or alumni that would like to be a “follower,” the same conditions will apply to the price and cancellation policies. Followers will participate in the same itinerary as the band.

Regarding the parade itself, followers will be on their own to find a place from which to watch the parade. We will discuss possible logistical scenarios at the Fall meeting, as the students will be leaving very early on Thanksgiving morning and traffic will be hellacious.

Chaperones

If you are interested in being a chaperone on this trip, please email or call Mr Jasica if you have not already done so; we still could use a few seasoned band parent Chaperones. You can elect to be a full-time or half-time chaperone; this way you can split this responsibility. The chaperone prices may be slightly discounted from the student rate (exact price still TBD).

Parade Rules

We have received a packet from Macy’s, and they have VERY strict rules surrounding the event. Everything is VERY scripted and managed. Followers cannot march with the students. Chaperones also do not march with the students except for specific sections and in case of inclement weather. We will discuss this more at the Fall meeting. It will be an early and “trying” day but a fun one! We will ask for your understanding as there is much about the parade we have no control over.

Mandatory Meeting and other Requirements:

There will be a **MANDATORY PARENT AND STUDENT MEETING** for all those participating in the Fall of 2011. At this meeting, you will receive the final Itinerary, instructions on what students will need to pack, how much spending money to send with them for extra meals, etc., and other pertinent information for the trip. All school rules and regulations in accordance with school and band handbooks will be in effect for this trip. We will go over these in detail at the meeting. Also, all students and parents traveling with the band will be required to have a band polo shirt and khaki pants. See the band website for information on how to order the band polo shirts. If you know that your student will need to carry medication with them on this trip, you will need to contact Tammi Vigil in the Legacy High School Clinic to get the proper release form signed by your student’s doctor.

ALL students need to have an ID in order to travel and check in. School IDs will work, but a state issued ID is preferred.

VERY IMPORTANT: Students must adhere to the Legacy High School attendance and eligibility policy in order to participate in this trip. Students must maintain 90% school attendance and may not be failing more than one class at the time of the trip.

This will be an experience that the students will never forget! The performance in the Parade will be a great experience for students and will bring national exposure to the Legacy High School Band program as well as to the great state of Colorado. If you have any questions, please contact Mr, Jasica using the contact information below.

Sincerely,

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