

Middletown High School South Music Department
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Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

This year's Music Department trip to Virginia Beach, Virginia is upon us. With this in mind we wanted to take a moment to pass along some information to you concerning the trip and our preparation for it. A few of us have been through this before and will notice some changes while for some this will be a completely new experience. As always we can be contacted at the high school or via email with any questions.

Accommodations & Emergency Contact

This year we will be staying at the Ramada Virginia Beach Oceanfront: 615 Atlantic Avenue Virginia Beach, VA 23451. In the age of cell phones we are all instantly connected (reminder: pack cell phone chargers), however in the event that you need to reach your child and cannot get through I ask that you not call the hotel first. You can contact the high school and they will pass along any emergencies to the chaperones. You can also sign up for the Remind text alerts for the trip by texting @mhsstrip to 81010. This will allow you to message the Directors directly in case of emergency. If all else fails, the number for the hotel is 757-425-7800.

Health/Emergency Forms & Medications

Prior to the luggage check you are asked to complete an online health questionnaire and sign an Authorization for Emergency Health Treatment form. These forms need to be completed by the student and a parent or guardian. Please read them carefully. Forms are posted on the department website at www.mhssmusic.weebly.com.

If your child is packing prescription or over the counter medications, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- All medications must be packed for the luggage check-in.
- Please inform the chaperones that there are prescription medications in the luggage at check in.
- Prescription medications must be in their original containers with the child's name on the pharmacy label.
- Over the counter medications must be in new, sealed, original packaging.

Packing & Luggage Check-in

Each student attending the trip will be allowed one piece of reasonably sized luggage and a carry-on. All luggage must be checked in on Wednesday, April 13th in the band room. Sophomores and Freshmen should report at 6:30pm and Seniors and Juniors at 7:00pm. The luggage check-in will conclude by 7:30pm. All students must be sure to pack everything that they will need for the competition performances (i.e. white tops, black pants or skirts, ties, black shoes, black socks, etc.) as well as clothing that is appropriate for the weather. Marching Band uniforms should be in their garment bags and should be dropped off as well. I would also like to remind the students that the hotel has an indoor pool. Please do your best to pack everything you will need into the luggage that you are checking the night before. A small carry on is allowed to be brought the next morning and will be checked upon the student's arrival. NO BEVERAGES are allowed to be packed in the luggage or carry on. Water and other drinks will be available on the bus.

Search of Student's Luggage

"Appellate Division upheld the search of student's luggage, even where there was no individualized suspicion that the student stored contraband there. Desilets v. Clearview Bd. Of Education 265 NJ Super 370(App Div 1993). It is our concern that students may bring inappropriate items on field trips such as cigarettes, stinks bombs, water pistols, etc. that will require us to make a search of the student's luggage. These searches will be done openly by the female chaperones who will be responsible for the girls, and the male chaperones who will be responsible for the boys. We feel this activity will assure all of us a non-incident trip."

We are all looking forward to a fun and successful trip this year. As long as we all work together achieving that should not be a problem. Please feel free to call or email us with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kaster & Mr. Raguseo