

Happy Sunday. As everyone knows, we have been waiting on the flight details in order to get some details finalized for the trip. This email will attempt to cover all the information we have at the present time. There are still a couple of details which we do not yet have from the travel company. The biggest one of those is we do not yet know which hotel we will be staying at. We will share that information as soon as we receive it.

First, let me note that we will be having a parent meeting tomorrow, Monday, March 9 at 7pm in the Band Room. We will attempt to answer any questions we can at that meeting.

Second, in light of the recent Coronavirus situation, we have asked the travel company about what happens should the trip get canceled either because of school policy or the event is postponed. We will share those answers as soon as we can, but as you can imagine, this situation is very fluid. At the moment, even if school events get canceled this year, there is no reason to believe that we will still be facing the same situation next December. We just thought you should know we have asked about it.

Travel Information

As always, when the band travels by air we split them across multiple flights as both a safety precaution and in order to secure the best price. All flights will originate out of Detroit Metro (DTW) and will land in Honolulu (HNL). However, some groups will change planes in different cities. Thus, we will have travel groups which will stay together. (Note: at present there are no non-stop flights to Hawaii from Detroit).

We have secured enough seats for everyone who has a desire to participate on the trip. We have 192 seats on United (in four travel groups) and we have two groups of tickets on American Airlines in reserve should we need them. (We probably won't but we have them just in case.)

IMPORTANT NOTE: IF you are going to extend your stay either before or after the specific dates of the trip - then Altour (the travel company) cannot include you in the travel block for any flight. You may still purchase a ticket on the same flights (which is why we are sharing the flight numbers below) however, you must purchase your tickets individually from the airline and meet us at the Hotel. Also, note that we will be assigning students to be in specific travel groups based on their room and chaperone assignments. At this time, we cannot guarantee any particular student will be on any particular flight. We highly encourage folks to travel with the group. This is a special trip, and we understand some folks may choose to take the opportunity to extend their travel, but it is preferred that we all stick together as much as possible.

All travelers must make their own way to Detroit Metro Airport and must be picked up at Detroit Metro. Please note that BOTH United Airlines AND American Airlines operate out of the NORTH TERMINAL- not the McNamara Terminal.

COST (These are PRELIMINARY)

For those traveling as a part of the group - the total cost is forecast to be \$2450. This includes the flight, taxes, fees, first bag of luggage, travel t-shirts, luggage tags, hats and string bags. Most meals are covered, but food at the airport will be on their own.

For those who are not traveling with the block, the total cost is forecast to be \$1450. This includes all of the above except the airfare. (Just for clarification - you will have hotel accommodations for the tour and will participate in the entire tour activities. Obviously, hotel accommodations either before or after the tour would be at your own expense.)

Please note that if you are extending your stay - the requirement to purchase your own flights applies to anyone not flying both to and from Hawaii with the band, including your student. They are officially a part of the tour when they check into the hotel (and there will be a deadline for that checkin established closer to travel time). And there would be a check-out window on the last day. Once they are a part of the travel block - they stay in the travel block until the check-out window. This is like band camp - we cannot have students coming and going once they have arrived until the trip is over. So PLEASE do not attempt to plan any visits with others between the check-in time and the check-out time.

Please understand that because we are still in negotiations with the shipping companies, we cannot yet guarantee the cost of shipping the instruments and uniforms to Hawaii and back. While it is the hope of the Boosters that our fundraising efforts will cover this cost, it is still a moving target. We are providing you the cost figures to enable folks to plan. We will try to keep the final prices as close to the forecast price as we can.

Flight Information

[Linked](#) is the specific flight information for the United Flights. There are four groups, Groups 1 and 2 will be traveling together both there and back. (But have different confirmation numbers). Groups 3 and 4 will fly out on the same flights but return on separate flights. Please note that while all of the flights will leave Hawaii the evening of Tuesday, December 8 they will arrive on Wednesday, December 9th. Parents will need to pick up their students at the North Terminal on Wednesday, December 9.

Band booster fundraising

The Band Booster fundraising to date is dedicated to covering the costs of transporting the larger instruments and the uniforms to Hawaii. To the extent that we raise more than that amount, we can then offer a subsidy to offset some of the individual costs. However, we cannot set that level until we have been able to finalize the negotiations on the shipping costs.

Butter Braid Fundraiser

The Butter Braid fundraiser is going on right now. Your students should have brought home the order forms from school. The Butter Braids are very popular and make great gifts. They cost \$14 of which \$6 goes straight to your student's accounts. If you need an order form, there is one attached to the end of this email.

Future fundraisers include both the Mattress Sale at the end of May and the Annual Golf Outing on August 30. Both provide tremendous opportunities for your student to raise money for their specific account as well as the band as a whole. [Flyer](#) | [Order Form](#)

State Solo and Ensemble

Reminder, the State Solo and Ensemble Festival will be held at South Lyon on Saturday, March 14.

Scranton Instrumental Clinic

Reminder that the Scranton Instrumental Clinic will be held on Friday, March 13 at Hartland High School. The 7th Grade performs at 2:15pm and the 8th Grade performs at 1:45. Please support our students!

I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Mark Burnham
President
Brighton Band Boosters