



# Lakeville South Bands

Students. School. Community. Performing with Passion and Pride

## Ireland/Booster Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2018

5:00 pm

### Ireland Trip

*Presented by: Chad Bieniek, Band Director  
Tammy Jo Sutton, Leisure Time Tour Escort*

Available online on band website travel page

<http://lakevillesouthbands.com/travel/>

Documents: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eL1cPA\\_edn2EutrXYISoeJYU5Fh90cB](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eL1cPA_edn2EutrXYISoeJYU5Fh90cB)

- Latest itinerary and trip packet
- Room and Chaperone Lists
- Flight Groups
- Bus Groups are pending

Leisure Time Tour Escort is Tammy Jo Sutton

- Mr. Bieniek has traveled with her before
- She will be with the student trip
- Friends and Family group will have a separate tour escort - Patty VanDorp

Presentation focus on student/chaperone trip. Friends and Family trip will see many of the same attractions, but may be on different dates or at different times

### Itinerary Highlights

Thurs March 15th

- Depart
- Students and chaperones meet at high school at 715am
- Friends and Family travellers must get own transportation to airport
- Sign for each chaperone around the band room
  - Each student meet with their chaperone
  - Chaperone will review luggage and make sure good to go

- Chaperone will verify student has all uniform pieces and instrument
  - Chaperone will verify student has passport
- Buses leave for airport at 815am
- Arrive at airport at 915am and check in with owner of Leisure Time Tours
  - Will take group through check in process
  - Groups will then disperse to their flights
  - Tammy Jo Sutton will be flying to Ireland a day ahead of time to handle logistics for the arrival of the band and will meet with band at Dublin airport

#### Fri March 16th

- Flight groups 1, 2, 3 arrive at 7am and will head to hotel for breakfast
- Flight group (includes Mr. Bieniek) will arrive at 830am and head to hotel for breakfast
- Visit Wicklow Mountains and Glendalough
- Check into hotel
- Breakfast and dinner included, lunch on own at Glendalough

#### Sat March 17th

- The main event!
- Parade where between 500,000 and 1,000,000 people attend
- Friends and Family have passes to grandstand for viewing during the parade
- 4 adults along with Mr. Bieniek will walk with band in parade
- Plans for remaining chaperones are pending
  - Should have more details a couple weeks before we leave
- Gaelic Football
  - Combination of soccer/basketball/hockey
- Boxed lunch provided after parade, Breakfast and Dinner also included

#### Sun March 18th

- International band festival
  - Parade with a stop during the parade to perform to grandstand
  - See a variety of bands from Europe
- Cliffs of Moher
- Boxed lunch provided along with Breakfast and Dinner

#### Mon March 19th

- Kilkenny
- Tour of Kilkenny Castle
- Students will also perform as part of an Arts Festival
  - Wear polos for this event
  - More informal in front of the castle
- Breakfast and Dinner included, lunch on own in Kilkenny

#### Tues March 20th

- Rock of Cashel and Blarney Castle and Stone
- Do need to tip if choose to kiss the Blarney Stone
- Breakfast and Dinner included, lunch on own at Blarney Woolen Mills

#### Wed March 21st

- Tour of Dublin, Book of Kells, Collin Barracks, Christ Church Cathedral
- End trip with Irish Ceili (evening of song and dance)
  - Need nicer “dress up” clothes
  - Teach Gaelic dancing
- Breakfast and Dinner included, Lunch on own in Dublin

#### Thurs March 22nd

- Travel home
- Students and chaperones need own transportation home
- See itinerary for return times

Packing information along with trip rules and regulations are available in itinerary packet

- Be sure to read and understand!
- Parents should help students pack and make sure everything packed properly for flying

## General Recommendations/Tips

#### General Tips

- Students should make sure to get a good night's sleep night prior to travelling
- Be sure to respect our bus drivers
- Respect everyone and everything around you
  - Representing the school, city, and state
  - Be “that” group which is known for respect
- Think of Bieniek
  - Any misbehavior will likely be handled by making “example” of student
- Free alcoholic drinks will likely be available
  - Despite some students being “of age” in Ireland no student should consume any alcoholic beverages
  - Do not even pretend to reach for drinks

#### Make sure to pack

- Uniform with all pieces
  - Be sure to fold uniform so that it does not wrinkle when traveling
  - Marching band hat should be worn in airport
    - Pack the plume - this saves space and weight in suitcase
    - Doesn't count as carry-on if being worn
    - Looks stylish in the airport!

- Dinkles
- Long black socks!
- Band polo
- Nice outfit for Irish Ceili
- Non-electronic entertainment
  - Paper to play games like tic-tac-toe
  - Playing cards
  - Goal to interact with each other and not always be absorbed in electronics
- Outfits can be worn more than once
- Consider sharing things like hair styling appliances and other styling needs with roommate
- Student id of some sort (if available)
- Luggage tags are available in band room. Everything should have a luggage tag

#### Phones

- Check with your carrier for what your plan allows internationally
- International plans are available from most carriers

#### Weather in March

- Plan for temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Slightly warmer than Lakeville in March
- Plan to wear layers
- Plan for rain
  - Raincoats or umbrellas (umbrellas can be carried on plane for no extra charge)

#### DO NOT PACK!

- Sharp objects
- Anything that might cause questions or concerns in security
  - Also keep this in mind when purchasing souvenirs

Make sure to keep in mind that checked luggage cannot exceed 50 pounds (22.7 kilograms)

- This applies to the flight back as well
- Keep in mind when purchasing souvenirs
- Charge for exceeding weight limits can be \$100-150

#### Instruments

- Carry-on: Smaller instruments - Flutes, Clarinets, Trumpets, Alto Saxophone
  - Allowed instrument and either backpack OR purse
- Checked: Larger instruments - Trombones, Baritones, Tubas, Drums
  - Allowed 2 carry-ons (backpack and purse)

#### Power supplies/chargers/adapters

- At least one per room, roommates can share
- Make sure rated for use in Ireland
  - Ireland is different than England and other parts of Europe
- Some good information on electricity in Ireland  
<http://www.visitireland.com/planning/electricity/>

#### Money

- Cannot use American money, must use Euros
- Can get Euros at local banks in US, but plan ahead as some smaller banks might have to get it shipped to them from a larger bank
- Credit cards and debit cards work the best
  - Credit cards have the best exchange rate
  - Most places accept credit cards
    - If they ask Dollars or Euros, respond with Euros (get slightly better exchange)
  - Do recommend having some cash (in Euros) on hand as well
  - Debit cards are good and can get cash from machines all over
- There will be places to get cash in Ireland as well
- Let your credit card company and bank know the credit or debit card will be used internationally and over which dates

#### Purchase merchandise tax free, but there is a tax

- Keep all receipts
- Form available to fill out at airport or can mail in within 21 days to ensure don't get charged tax
- This is advertised/reminders everywhere
- Should be time at the airport to fill out the form

#### Rooming List

- First page is chaperones
  - Each chaperone has two rooms
  - 3,3 indicates two rooms of 3 students
- Name of chaperone by each of rooms
- Students check in with chaperone at each transition
  - Flights
  - Bus
  - Curfew

### Chaperone support

- Rose Krogstad is medic and will not have students to chaperone
  - Available for any medical needs
- Mr. Bieniek is “chaperone’s chaperone” and will help everyone (students and adults)
  - Will not have individual students to chaperone
- Dr Braun (Principal) and Mrs. Braun are also accompanying the band
- Tammy Jo Sutton (travel escort) will work with Mr. Bieniek, drivers, and vendors to make sure trip runs smoothly

### Buses

- There will be 4 buses
  - Bus assignments are still pending
  - Will be on same bus as roommates and chaperone
- Each driver very educated and will provide a fun, unique experience for the students and chaperones
- Drivers will interact with students and educate

### Hotel

- Hotel is an older hotel and will have some uniqueness
- Some have combination of double and single beds
- Rooms are not as big as they are here

### Uniforms

- Students can start bringing them home
- Hats will be distributed on departure day

Chris Bovitz is developing a quick reference guide with information on exchange rates, metric to English conversions, and other helpful information

### Apparel

- Another order of Ireland T-shirts being placed
  - Must get your order in by midnight on Friday Feb 23
  - Should arrive back to the band room next week
  - Link will be available on website, Facebook, etc.
  - T-shirts will be slightly more due to the short turnaround

### Friends and Family

#### Check in at airport

- Meet with John (owner of Leisure Tours) at the airport
  - Must provide own transportation to airport
  - Be sure to arrive on time
- Will check in all together

- Airline seats are preassigned
- Mr. Bieniek will provide instructions on where to meet (bus area)
- Be aware there is a fair amount of construction going on at the airport

## Questions & Answers

Q: How long is the parade?

A: Current estimate is 1.5 miles, but need to validate

Q: How much cash recommend have available

A: If also using credit cards, around \$100 is good. More would be needed if not using credit cards

Q: Will students need identification for credit cards

A: Shouldn't need it, but can have either their school id or passport if unsure

Q: How safe is the area students are going?

A: Very safe. Think Minnesota. Students must also always be in group of 3. If a chaperone sees a group of less than 3, they will join the group.

Dublin is big, but rest of the areas we are going, we will be the majority of the people visiting at that particular time

Students should still use common sense and be aware of their surroundings

Chaperones will be around and accessible at all times and Mr. Bieniek will also hang out with the students, Cannot guarantee something won't happen

In general, the Irish are nice and welcoming people

Q: Are there safes in hotel rooms?

A: Yes and students can keep their passports in the safes

Students shouldn't need to have their passports while sightseeing

Mr. Bieniek also has the photocopies of the passports turned in last fall in case of an emergency or lost passport

Q: Which terminal will students arrive at on the return to Minneapolis?

A: Main (Lindbergh terminal, Terminal 1)

Q: How much should students anticipate to spend for lunch?

A: About \$7 or so (10 Euros) if fast food, more if sit-down meal

Q: Can students decorate face or horns for parade

A: No

Q: Should students have health insurance cards and notify health insurance company

A: Medical forms should have filled out last fall. If not filled out, make sure to get to Mr. Bieniek if it hasn't already. Also provide any updated information if health insurance has changed since last fall

Q: Do students need to tip drivers?

A: No, the tip is incorporated in cost of the trip. Be sure to show your gratitude to them by saying thank you

Only gratuities that may be needed is any sit-down lunches

Hotel rate includes gratuity

Q: Does hotel have a pool?

A: No, but probably wouldn't have much time to swim

Q: Are there hair dryers in the hotel

A: Yes

Q: Will there be opportunities to run in the morning like on Colorado trip

A: Will be dependent on timing and activities each day

Q: How much will students have to carry instruments (especially the large instruments)

A: To and from bus, to and from rooms

Q: Are instruments being checked?

A: Large instruments are being checked. They will be dropped off in one large area for loading on plane

This has been paid for as part of the trip and will not require additional fees at the airport

Q: When will students have to wake up?

A: Mr. Bieniek will provide timing each evening at dinner for the next day

## General Band Booster Items

*Presented by: Missy Toombs, President*

First annual Band Banquet

- Tues May 29th at Lakeville South High School
- Dinner
- Acknowledgement of seniors
- Letter winners



#### Volunteer Help

- We need your help!
- Organizational chart and descriptions were handed out at the meeting
  - Review and see if there is something you are interested in doing
- Sign up board will be available at the March concert

#### Other

Next parent meeting currently scheduled for April 19, 2018

Submitted by Lori Bovitz, Secretary