

# WHS BANDS 2024 ITALY TOUR

**WELCOME!**

STUDENTS

PLEASE SIGN IN UP FRONT  
AND TAKE ONE PACKET PER  
TRAVELER

MR. BATIZ COLLECTING  
PERMISSION FORMS

# **CHAPERONES**

**Chris Vitale, Director**

**Gabe Batiz, Director**

**James Doyle, Chaperone – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour**

**Aaron Staluppi, Chaperone – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour**


**Amanda Gant, Chaperone – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour**

**Maggie Fatsis, Chaperone – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour**


**Kristine Bates, Chaperone, Media – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tour**

**Rowena Naeseth, Nurse**

# TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- Overview of Student Expectations
  - Safety Guidelines
  - Itinerary Review
  - Packing tips/guidelines
  - Medications and Medical needs
  - Questions
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# STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- All school policies apply
    - If you can't do it in school you can't do it on this trip
    - ZERO TOLERANCE
  - Impossible to come up with a list of rules that would include EVERY a high school student would think to do that they shouldn't
    - Do your best
    - Do what's right
    - Treat everyone and everything with dignity and respect
  - SAFETY, Music, fun
  - TRUST
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# SAFETY GUIDELINES

- **Never go anywhere alone**
  - Always in groups of 4 or more
- **Chaperone check-ins are non-negotiable**
  - We set the time/place, students show up
  - Late for a check-in and you spend the rest of the day with your chaperone
  - Miss a check-in and you are with a chaperone until further notice
- **Chaperones are an extension of the director**
  - “Yes” and “Thank you”
  - Problem? Find Mr. Vitale or Mr. Batiz
- **Rooms**
  - Students are not permitted, under any circumstances, to be in someone's room other than your own.

- **When traveling with a group everyone puts something at stake**
  - STUDENTS: Their academic standing and standing within this program
  - ADULTS: Our jobs and the programs ability to travel in the future
  - We take both of these VERY seriously and you should do the same
- **TRIP PRIORITIES AT ALL TIMES**
  1. Everyone's SAFETY
  2. MUSIC
  3. FUN
- **Sleep**
  - Lack of sleep results in irritability and poor decisions, which makes for a bad experience for everyone involved

- **INFORMATION WHILE ON TRIP**
  - We will meet each night to review the schedule for the following day
  - 98% information comes verbally in these meetings and via chaperones at scheduled check-ins. A groupme/whatsapp or similar will be set up with students for emergency communication.
  - All students must have a phone with service/data on trip
  - Know the schedule and be early to everything
  - Your ability to be in the right place at the right time affects 100 people
- **GROUP TRAVEL IS NOT LIKE FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL**
  - PATIENCE
  - COURTESY
  - EARLY IS ON TIME
  - “ME time vs WE time”
  - LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER
    - Help each other make good choices
    - Safety at all times
    - Be nice

# ITINERARY REVIEW

## THURSDAY MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> – Send-off Concert

- 7 pm concert in auditorium
  - Italy concert attire – performance shirt, black pants, black socks/shoes. Look professional!
  - All in community are welcome to attend – FREE!
- We will pack all equipment for travel after the performance. Only large instruments/percussion stay at WHS. Everything else goes home with you!



## MONDAY, APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> – Up, Up, and AWAY!

- Report to WHS at 12:30 pm.
- You will need to show the following to your chaperone upon arrival
  - Instrument – with name or serial number (school instruments)
    - We recommend hard cases for everything if possible
  - Black 3-ring binder with music in sheet protectors
  - Wire Music Stand
  - Suitcase
  - Backpack that can fit under seat in front of you
  - **PASSPORT!**
- Load bus and depart for PHL or EWR
- EWR flight departs at 5:20 pm and PHL flight departs at 6:40 pm
- Dinner provided on flight

**DRESS FOR DAY: Comfortable pants/shoes and Italy travel shirt (provided)**



## TUESDAY, APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rome

- Breakfast served on flight
- Arrive in Rome in AM and meet up with the rest of our group
- Meet tour managers/load motorcoaches and depart for Rome
- Arrive, lunch in small groups on our own
  - You will need \$ for lunch (Euros)
- **Split into two groups**
  - Group 1 – Guided tour of Ancient Rome
  - Group 2 – Vatican and Sistine Chapel
- Hotel Check-in
- Dinner provided/Group meeting/Lights out

**DRESS FOR DAY: Casual/Travel**

**HOTEL INFORMATION: Bettoja Hotels Massimo D'Azeglio +39 06 487 0270**

**OR Bettoja Hotel Mediterraneo Roma +39 06 488 4051**



## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rome/Latina

- Breakfast at hotel
- Groups 1 and 2 switch from day before to visit Ancient Rome or Vatican/Sistine Chapel
- Lunch in small groups on your own (\$\$)
- Travel as group to Conservatorio Ottorino Respighi in Latina
- Sectional rehearsals with professors from conservatory
- Full Ensemble clinic with conductor from Conservatory
- Dinner in Latina before returning to Rome
- View musical performance of local musicians
- Return to hotel, group meeting, lights out

**DRESS FOR DAY: Casual – performance attire not needed**



## THURSDAY, APRIL 4<sup>th</sup> – Rome/Spoletto

- Breakfast at hotel
- Depart for Spoleto
- Lunch in small groups on your own
- Rehearsal at beautiful Teatro Nuovo
- Check into Hotel, early dinner, time to change into performance attire
- Concert at Teatro Nuovo, 8:30 pm
- Reception following concert
- Desert reception following concert before return to hotel
- Group meeting/lights out

**DRESS FOR DAY:** Casual day/Concert Dress in evening

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** Hotel Albornoz Palace Spoleto +39 0743 221221

## FRIDAY, APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> – Spoleto/Assisi

- Breakfast at hotel
- Walking tour of Spoleto - Piazza Mercato, the Roman Aqueduct and restored fortress Rocca Albornoziana
- Free time in groups and lunch on your own
- Transfer to Assisi – guided tour of Basilica San Francesco
- Dinner provided on return trip to Spoleto
- Group meeting/lights out

**DRESS FOR DAY: Casual**



## **SATURDAY, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Spoleto, Florence, Lucca**

- **Breakfast at Hotel**
- **Travel to Florence**
- **Lunch on your own in small groups**
- **Guided walking tour, tour Accademia - home to Michelangelo's masterwork statues of David and the series The Prisoners**
- **Group dinner**
- **Transfer to Lucca to check-in to hotel**
- **Group meeting/lights out**

**DRESS FOR DAY: Casual**

**HOTEL INFORMATION: Best Western Grand Hotel Guinigi Lucca +39 0583 49 91**

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 7<sup>th</sup> – Lucca**

- **Breakfast at hotel**
- **Rehearsal/Sound check at concert venue e Chiesa di San Francesco**
- **Pizza lunch provided with Banda Giovanile Provinciale Anbima Lucca**
- **Informal tour of city provided by our new local friends!**
- **Joint rehearsal**
- **5 pm concert**
- **Dinner at hotel with Lucca Band**

**DRESS FOR DAY: Casual/Performance Attire**



## **MONDAY, April 8<sup>th</sup>- Lucca, Siena, Rome**

- **Breakfast at hotel**
- **Depart for Siena**
- **Guided walking tour**
- **Farewell banquet lunch**
- **Free time/shopping in small groups**
- **Depart for Rome airport hotel and stop for dinner on the way (\$\$)**

**DRESS FOR DAY: Casual**

**HOTEL INFORMATION: Hotel Isola Sacra Rome Airport +39 06 6502 9864**



## TUESDAY April 9<sup>th</sup> – USA!

- Early breakfast at hotel
- Departure for airport for 8 am check-in
- EWR flight returns 2:25 pm (US Time) and PHL flight arrives 3:40 pm (US time)
- EWR flight estimated return is between 4:30-5:30 pm. PHL estimated return is between 7:30-8:30 pm
- **COME TO SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY!**


**DRESS FOR DAY: Comfortable/Italy travel shirt (provided)**



# PACKING GUIDELINES

- 1 checked bag, and 1 personal item (backpack, etc) – recommend not having a carry-on
  - Checked bags must be less than 62 linear inches and under 50 lbs
  - We suggest 40 lbs to leave room for souvenirs
  - Trumpets, Flutes, Clarinets, Oboes, Bassoons, Alto Sax – *Your instrument will be your carry-on*
  - Low Brass, Other Woodwinds, Percussion – will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> checked bag or rented
  - Wire music stand
  - Clothes/absolutely necessary toiletries, batteries, chargers, in-flight entertainment, *extra copies of credentials*
  - *Passport must be on your person or in your carry-on, not in checked luggage*
  - **LABEL EVERYTHING – 100 people X all of our things = a lot of things**


# CLOTHING

- Pack as light as possible. We recommend not packing an outfit for each day
  - Comfortable clothing, T-shirts, Pants, etc
  - Jacket – it will likely be 50-70 during the day and can get as cool as 40 at night. Wear on the plane to save room in your suitcase
  - Many locations do not allow you to enter with bare shoulders or midriffs and you must have covered knees. Tank tops not recommended. Bring sweater/coverup every day of sight-seeing.
  - Comfortable walking shoes – no flip flops
  - Weatherproof jacket/folding umbrella
  - Light-weight sweater or warm shirt for chilly evenings
  - Underwear, socks, sleepwear
  - Toiletries
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# PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

- Black performance shirt (provided)
- Black dress pants
- Black belt or no belt
- Black socks/Dress shoes – NO HEELS
- All performances are indoors


# MONEY

- If traveling with debit/credit card – call # on back of card at least a week in advance to advise them of your foreign travel. Ask for a collect number to reach them in case of a problem while abroad. Add to notes on your phone.
  - Credit cards in different places: 1 in travel pouch, 1 in suitcase
  - We suggest having \$100 in EUROS before departure (from your bank). Not the best exchange rate, but it's an “emergency fund” in case your card doesn't work upon arrival
  - Best exchange rate – take \$ from ATM in Europe in large sum and put it in your safe in the hotel. This way, you're charged the transaction fee, but it's a flat fee, not a percentage
  - Minimum recommendation for trip - \$120-140 Euros for 6 meals plus \$20 USD for snacks/drinks on plane – not including souvenirs
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# CELL PHONES

- Every provider is different – many offer affordable plans.
- Talk to provider in advance – **ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE CELL PHONES ON THE TRIP – SAFETY**
- Group Travel Videos
- Other communication
- All students must have a working cell phone with data while on trip - **SAFETY**

# PASSPORTS

- Carry with you on the plane
  - Other times – leave in safe in hotel room – we have a process for this
  - Have a paper copy of your passport on you at all times in travel pouch
  - Leave a paper copy at home with family
  - We will have paper copies in a binder as well
  - Always put passport in the same pocket/backpack pocket etc. This is the #1 thing that can derail your trip!
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# WHAT ELSE?

- Consider a travel pouch to hold secure items. Pick-pockets can be a problem in a large European city
- Those using rented instruments
  - Bring mouthpiece, reeds, neckstraps
    - *Directors will touch base with those students*
- Pack a wire music stand in your suit case – they will not be supplied at every performance site. If you sit next to someone in the band and you can share that is fine.
- Electricity
  - 120 volts in US, 220-230 volts in Europe
  - Universal Adapter/Converter Kit – AAA, Macy's, Amazon, etc
  - Apple users: World Traveler Adapter Kit
  - Hair Dryers – need voltage converter AND plug adapter



# VALUABLES/PACKING ADVICE

- **Bring valuables at your own risk**
  - iPads, earbuds, computers, cameras etc.
  - Laptops – we don't recommend that you bring one
  - iPad/tablet would be better
  - Wifi is provided for free in most hotels and hotspots can be found throughout the cities
- **You will be moving your belongings several times throughout this trip – pack light and make sure you can comfortably move your suitcase and carry your belongings – we walk!**
- **Plan to wear things more than once**
- **PUT YOUR NAME ON EVERYTHING**

# MEDICATION

1. Print one of the emailed Med Auth form per medication.
  2. Fill out each form properly and get required signatures from your doctor.
  3. Take a ziplock bag (one per medication) and write the students first and last name clearly on the bag. Place the medical form in the bag along with the medication in its original container. Do not send more medication than is needed for the duration of the trip.
  4. All prescription medications must be in the original prescription bottle. The dose and directions on the prescription bottle must match the form. Any over-the-counter medications should be in the original package and the dose must match the form.
  5. Turn all medication authorization forms accompanied by the medication directly into the WHS Health Office no later than Thursday 3/21.
  6. You do not need to fill out a form for the following medications AS LONG as you checked that they can be administered by the nurse as needed on your child's field trip permission form: *Motrin, Tylenol, Benadryl, Tums, Anbesol, and cough drops.*
  7. Band Camp/In School Med forms
- **ALLERGIES**
    - We suggest having a card printed in Italian with any food allergies listed. Show it to the waiter prior to every meal, including lunch.

# FOOD FOR FLIGHTS

- There are no nut-free meal options on the flights and they do use peanut oil
- Bring your own meal or purchase something after we go through security at the airport
- Vegetarians/Dairy free will get Vegan meal options. If anyone would like to change please let us know ASAP

# EMERGENCIES

## STUDENTS

- Will be given emergency contact cards with adult contact info including our European tour guide upon loading bus on 4/1. Put in your travel pouch and take a photo with your phone

## PARENTS

- Call hotel
- Email/Call Mr. Vitale and Mr. Batiz

# KEEP IN TOUCH!

We will be posting daily updates on the band facebook/instagram pages along with pictures (hopefully)

We are documenting the entire trip (video/photo) and commemorative video will be available and shared with families after the trip has concluded

Keep in contact with your kids and kids keep in contact with your parents!



# QUESTIONS?

Any questions specific to your child can be emailed or asked after the conclusion of the meeting

**LET'S GO TO ITALY!**

