



WAUNAKEE

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

301 Community Drive
Waunakee, Wisconsin 53597
(608) 849-2100

August 25, 2026

To: Dr. Monica Kelsey-Brown
Board of Education

From: Deanne Lensert

RE: Chicago 26 Proposal for Overnight Travel
Chicago Symphony/Color Factory/Art Institute

The Waunakee High School Orchestra Instructor, Mrs. Elizabeth Heiks is requesting to travel with approximately 40 students to Chicago, IL on November 13-14, 2026. The group would like to attend the Chicago Symphony, Color Factory and the Art Institute.

The group's itinerary (see below) includes a performance by Andrew Bird, a renowned contemporary violinist and composer. In addition, students would also hear the music of the world class Chicago Symphony.

Final plans are underway for lodging that will be comparable to past stays (e.g., the DoubleTree Hilton in Chicago, IL). The estimated cost is: \$300 (includes hotel, bus, dinner, concert and museum ticket). Financial assistance would be possible from the Music Boosters (FORMATA), if needed.

I support Mrs. Heik's request and respectfully request that you do so as well. This request needs your approval as it would involve overnight, out-of-state, accommodations.

Orchestra Overnight Trip: Chicago, IL

Name of Organization: WHS Orchestra
Advisers Attending: Elizabeth Heiks
Other Chaperones: Mike Steen, music staff
Number of Students: Approximately 40 (roster will be sent when confirmed)

Event or Field Trip Purpose: Andrew Bird is a renowned contemporary violinist and composer who is performing with the Chicago Symphony. His modern style incorporates all styles we study in orchestra: jazz, pop, folk and more. The CSO will also be featured- an awesome opportunity for students to hear a world class orchestra. A shared dinner, time to explore Michigan Avenue, and a visit to the art event “Color Factory” are added to make this trip a memorable and community building experience for the students

Date(s) of Trip: 11/13-11/14
Transportation Information: Coach bus
Parent Permission Slips Posted in Schoology staff page

Friday, Nov 13

12:00 PM Leave WHS
3:00 PM Arrive downtown Chicago
3-5 PM Museum: <https://www.colorfactory.co/locations/chicago> or ART INSTITUTE of CHICAGO
5:30 PM Dinner at Berghoff's
7-10 PM CSO performance: CSO and Andrew Bird
<https://cso.org/performances/26-27/featured/andrew-bird-and-the-cso/>

Overnight Hotel comparable to Double Tree Hilton

Saturday, Nov 14

8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Visit downtown Michigan Ave
12 PM Depart for WHS
3:00 PM Arrive back to Waunakee

- Financial/Payment Info including support for students with financial need: FORMATA
- Lodging: To be arranged pending approval; similar to Double Tree Hilton
- Other student expenses not included in Field Trip Payment: Food
- Other Information Approx. \$300/student