

To the Okemos Public School Board of Education,

Thank you for your time and consideration for the OHS Choirs to travel to New York City from February 13th through the 16th. Having taken students to New York City (with the Owosso High School) I know how great of an experience this will be for them. The Okemos Performing Arts have a long standing tradition of performance travel and I am excited to continue that this year!

I have obtained and am including the 3 bids for the trip. They are from Bob Rogers Travel, WorldStrides and Educational Tours, Inc. The proposed itineraries are attached. From a financial, ease of use, and previous experience standpoint, I would like to choose Bob Rogers Travel. We are looking at taking one bus with 40 students and 10 chaperones (2 of which are OPS staff members) allowing us to have a 1:4 ratio of adults to students. Bob Rogers Travel also provides night time security in the hotel so our chaperones and staff can rest and the parents back home can have peace of mind that their students are as safe as possible when in the hotel.

In taking on the Big Apple our musicians will have the opportunity to watch two Broadway performances, seeing many of the skills we work on daily in action! We will also have the opportunity to participate in Broadway Classroom in which our students are able to work on music from one of the performances we saw with members of the cast of that show! We will be performing at St. Bartholomew's church, commonly called St. Bart's. It is an historic parish in Midtown Manhattan that has been designated a National Historical Landmark. Students will have the chance to visit and explore the 9/11 museum and surrounding grounds as well as experience the Museum of Broadway and Times Square.

I look forward to your approval to take the choir students to experience and perform in New York City! I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you again for your time,



Jessica A. Nieuwkoop

Director of Choirs

Okemos High School

Jessica.Nieuwkoop@OkemosK12.net

(517) 706-4945



**OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR
JESSICA NIEUWKOOP – TRIP DIRECTOR
DESTINATION: NEW YORK CITY
TRAVEL DATES: FEBRUARY 13 – 16, 2025**

SUGGESTED ITINERARY AS OF JUNE 11, 2024

Bob Rogers Travel Emergency Number – 800.373.1423
TBD, BRT Tour Director
Brian Rogers, Travel Consultant
Marybeth Coyne, Senior Travel Coordinator
Cardinal Motorcoach Company

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

0 MEALS INCLUDED

- 6:00 AM Coach arrives for loading
7:00 AM Leave **OKEMOS HS** via one (1) privately chartered **56 – PASSENGER** motorcoach
2800 Jolly Road
Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: 517-706-4900
-11½ hours drive time with 2½ hours added for rest stops and meal stops (675 miles).
-Breakfast to be eaten prior to departure from the school or on the motorcoach.
-Lunch and dinner “on your own” en-route to New York City.
9:00 PM Arrive at **MARRIOTT COURTYARD LYNDHURST MEADOWLANDS** for check-in
1 Polito Avenue
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
Phone: 201-896-6666

YOUR PROFESSIONAL BRT TOUR AND TRAVEL DIRECTOR WILL MEET YOU HERE

PRIVATE NIGHTTIME HOTEL SECURITY (1 GUARD) FROM 10:00 PM – 5:00 AM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

3 MEALS INCLUDED: B,L,D

- 7:30 AM **BREAKFAST** at the hotel
8:30 AM Board coach and transfer into Manhattan
9:30 AM Arrive at the **DESIGNATED WORKSHOP LOCATION**
New York, NY



- 10:00 AM OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL "BROADWAY VOCAL EXPERIENCE" WORKSHOP
-This 90-minute workshop is dedicated to students learning the ensemble vocals to a Broadway musical in preparation for a cast member from the show to sing along with them in the end!
- 11:30 AM The workshop ends and load everything back on the motorcoach
- 11:45 AM Board coach and transfer to lunch
- 12:15 PM Lunch at **JOHN'S PIZZERIA** (NYC Style Pizza!)
260 West 44th Street
- 1:30 PM Board coach and transfer to the **MUSEUM OF BROADWAY**
145 West 45th Street
- 2:00 PM Arrive at the **MUSEUM OF BROADWAY**
-Take an exciting, immersive journey from the birth of Broadway to present day, including a sneak-peek behind the curtain into the making of a Broadway show. A team of internationally-renowned designers, artists, and historians have crafted a fully interactive experience that is certain to educate, entertain, and inspire.
- 4:00 PM Enjoy some free time in the **TIMES SQUARE** area
- 5:30 PM Everyone meet back up and walk to dinner
- 5:45 PM Dinner at **GAYLE'S BROADWAY ROSE**
228 West 47th Street
- 7:15 PM Walk to the **TBD THEATRE**
Theatre District
- 7:30 PM Arrive at the **TBD THEATRE**
- 8:00 PM The Broadway performance of "TBD" begins
- 11:00 PM Board coach and transfer to the hotel
- 11:30 PM Arrive back at the hotel for the evening

PRIVATE NIGHTTIME HOTEL SECURITY (1 GUARD) FROM 11:30 PM – 6:30 AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

3 MEALS INCLUDED: B,L,D

- 7:30 AM **BREAKFAST** at the hotel
- 8:30 AM Hotel check-out and load all luggage on the motorcoach
- 9:00 AM Board coach and transfer to **ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**
325 Park Avenue
- 10:00 AM Arrive at **ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**
- 10:30 AM **OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR PERFORMANCE** (pending availability)
- 11:15 AM **BOXED LUNCHES** provided for the ride to the next attraction



- 12:15 PM Arrive at the **ONE WORLD OBSERVATORY**
285 Fulton Street
-There are a million things to experience in NYC, but there's only one way to see them all at once. You can start by hopping a Sky Pod to the top of the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere. There, 102 stories up, find yourself face-to-face with New York's iconic skyline.
- 2:15 PM Arrive at the **9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM**
-The Museum displays artifacts associated with the events of 9/11, while presenting stories of loss and recovery. It is the country's principal institution concerned with exploring the implications of the events of 9/11, documenting the impact of those events, and exploring 9/11's continuing significance.
- 4:15 PM Visit the **9/11 MEMORIAL POOLS**
-This 16-acre site features two enormous waterfalls and reflecting pools, each about an acre in size, set within the footprints of the original twin towers. Its design conveys a spirit of hope and renewal, and creates a contemplative space separate from the usual sights and sounds of a bustling metropolis. With over 400 trees, the Memorial Plaza is one of the most eco-friendly plazas ever constructed.
- 4:45 PM Board coach and transfer to dinner
- 5:45 PM Dinner at **THE GRISLEY PEAR**
243 West 54th Street
- 7:15 PM Walk to the **TBD THEATRE**
Theatre District
- 7:30 PM Arrive at the **TBD THEATRE**
- 8:00 PM The Broadway performance of "TBD" begins
- 11:00 PM Take a group photo in Times Square "on your own"
- 11:30 PM Board coach and transfer back home
-11½ hours drive time with 2 hours added for rest stops, breakfast stop, and driver change. (675 miles). Breakfast "on your own" en-route back home.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

0 MEALS INCLUDED

- 1:00 PM **ARRIVE AT OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL**



Bob Rogers Travel

Trip Pricing Based on 50 – 55 Total People Using 1 Bus:

- \$1349 quad
- \$1429 triple
- \$1509 double
- \$1749 single

Payment Schedule:

Deposit	\$200 pp	September 13
2 nd Payment	\$400 pp	October 18
3 rd Payment	\$400 pp	November 22
Final	Balance	January 3

What's Included:

Transportation: Deluxe Motor Coach

Meals: 2 breakfast, 2 lunch, 2 dinner

Inclusions: Professional tour guide, online registration and enrollment, online auto pay with no installment fees, nighttime security, Luggage tags and lanyards, 24/7 emergency service, all taxes and gratuity

Activities: Broadway classroom, Museum of Broadway, Times Square, 2 Broadway shows, Performance at St. Bartholomew, One World Observatory, National 9/11 Museum and Memorial, Group Photo.

YOU WANT TO GIVE YOUR STUDENTS THE WORLD. WE HELP YOU TAKE THEM THERE.

Founded by a former music educator, Bob Rogers Travel has been making student travel simple since 1981. Our team's singular focus is to allow you to keep yours – because when you can focus on inspiring students while we handle your trip, we all do our best work. Our team is comprised of educators, musicians and travel professionals. Together, we've planned over 6,000 memorable student travel experiences.

Every Bob Rogers Travel tour comes with these essentials:

- Motor coach operators that adhere to the strict USDOT standards for safety
- Payment options tailored to fit your group's needs and schedule (including the option to have BRT automatically collect payments from travelers through our BRT Payments System)
- Professional liability insurance and a consumer protection plan as recommended by the Student & Youth Travel Association
- The same high level of service and attention to detail which the company was founded on in 1981



Tour Details

Destination: New York

Departing: Thursday February 13, 2025

Returning: Sunday February 16, 2025

Tour Pricing by Participation

Paying Passengers	48
Complimentary Chaperones (Single Occupancy)	2
Student Price (Quad Occupancy)	\$ 1395
Paying Adult Price (Double Occupancy)	\$ 1595

What's Included

Transportation

- Deluxe Motorcoach

Accommodation

- 2 Nights
- Quad occupancy for Students (2 beds per room)
- Single occupancy for Complimentary Chaperones (2 beds per room)

Meals

- 2 Breakfasts
- 2 Lunches
- 2 Dinners

Additional Inclusions

- Professional Course Leader
- Online Registration and Enrollment Materials
- Online Autopay with No Installment Fees
- Nighttime Chaperones (Hotel Security)
- Professional Development for Teachers
- Tour Management and Communication Portal
- Gift of Education Online Fundraising Tool
- Parent Meeting Support
- Luggage Tags and Lanyards
- Doctors On Call
- 24/7 Tour Emergency Service
- Dedicated Health & Safety Team
- Travel Guard Health & Accident Insurance
- Travel Guard Trip Delay Protection
- Industry Leading General Liability Insurance
- All Taxes and Gratuities Included
- WorldStrides Loyalty Program

Tour Highlights - *all sites pending confirmation*

- Broadway Choral Workshop
- Museum of Broadway
- Explore Times Square
- Broadway Show - TBD
- Perform at St. Bartholomew (pending availability)
- One World Observatory
- National September 11 Museum and Memorial
- Visit the National 9/11 Memorial
- Group Photo (on your own)
- FRP is included for EVERYONE

Protect your investment with our Full Refund Program

Educational travel is an investment in your child's future. Our Full Refund Program protects that investment should you have to cancel your registration for any reason prior to departure. The program refunds all money paid (less the cost of the Full Refund Program and any other non-refundable fees) and includes special Job Loss Protection. We strongly recommend that you add on our Full Refund Program when signing up for your trip.

See terms and conditions on spark.worldstrides.com for more details.

WorldStrides Advantage

- 50+ Years of Experience
- Member of Student & Youth Travel Association
- Member of American Bus Association
- Member of National Association for Music Educators
- Member of US Tour Operators Association
- Most comprehensive refund guarantee plan in the industry

Day One - Thursday February 13, 2025

ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- 6:00 AM Motorcoach arrives at School
- 6:15 AM Load luggage on to coach
- 6:45 AM Board your deluxe, chartered motorcoach with climate control, restroom and DVD Player for departure.
Estimated driving distance (675 miles) 11 1/2 hours drive time with 2 1/2 hours added for rest stops
Note: snacks and meals en route are at your own expense.
- 9:00 PM Arrive at hotel for check-in
- 9:00 PM **Check into your hotel**
Your Professional Course Leader/Guide will meet your group upon arrival and handle your hotel check-in, plus all of your ticketing and reservations logistics. They will stay at your hotel and ride the bus full-time with your group. In addition, they will be your expert guide to the city.
- 10:30 PM All students in rooms
Private overnight security at the hotel each evening

Day Two - Friday February 14, 2025

- 7:30 AM **Breakfast at the hotel**
- 9:00 AM Board motorcoach and depart for sightseeing
- 9:30 AM Arrive at designated workshop location
- 10:00 AM **Broadway Choral Workshop**
- 11:30 AM Load Motorcoach and depart for lunch
- 12:15 PM **Lunch at Mama Sbarro**
- 1:30 PM Load coaches and depart for MUSEUM OF BROADWAY
- 2:00 PM **Museum of Broadway**
- 4:00 PM **Explore Times Square**
- 5:15 PM Meet
- 5:30 PM **Dinner at Gayle's Broadway Rose**
- 8:00 PM **Broadway Show - TBD**
- 10:00 PM Board motorcoach and depart for the hotel
- 10:45 PM **All students in rooms**
Nighttime security

Day Three - Saturday February 15, 2025

- 7:30 AM **Breakfast at the hotel**
- 8:30 AM Check out of hotel and load luggage on motorcoach
- 9:00 AM Depart for sightseeing
- 10:00 AM Arrive at St. Bartholomew's
- 10:30 AM **Perform at St. Bartholomew (pending availability)**
- 11:15 AM **Boxed lunches from Potbelly Sandwich Works**
- 12:15 PM **One World Observatory**
- 2:15 PM **National September 11 Museum and Memorial**
- 4:15 PM **Visit the National 9/11 Memorial**
- 4:45 PM Board motorcoach
- 5:45 PM **Dinner at Puglia Restaurant**
- 7:30 PM Arrive at Broadway theater
- 8:00 PM **Broadway Show - TBD**
- 11:00 PM Group Photo (on your own)
- 11:30 PM Course Leader bids farewell to group and group departs for home

Day Four - Sunday February 16, 2025

- 1:00 PM **Approximate arrival at school - Welcome home!**

WorldStrides reserves the right to revise this itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances such as traffic, road closures, site closures, weather or any restrictions related to public health and safety matters. Your Course Leader will consult with the Program Leader and Bus Driver(s) on any changes.

In keeping with WorldStrides' commitment to safety and security, all of our itineraries are compliant with Department of Transportation rules and regulations and giving drivers at least 9 hours off each night and a maximum of 14 hours on duty, not to exceed 10 hours of driving during any 24 hour period. This includes time for drivers to follow any necessary health and safety cleaning protocols.



**Okemos High School Choir
Trip to New York City
02-13-2025 - 02-16-2025**

Please note that the sightseeing order and scheduled times in the itinerary below are estimates. All services are subject to final reservation confirmation. The days and times may need to be adjusted based on availability.

Thursday, February 13, 2025

- 7:00 AM Your motor coach arrives at Okemos High School for loading.
- 7:30 AM Your motor coach departs the school. (11 hours have been allotted for the drive; plus 1.75 hour for rest stops/meals on your own along the route)
- 12:00 PM Free time for **Lunch**. (\$15 will be loaded on your JASSBY Debit Card)
- 6:00 PM Stop to get **Dinner**. (\$20 will be loaded on your JASSBY Debit Card)
- 8:15 PM Arrive and meet your **Tour Director**, who will accompany the group exclusively throughout the tour.
- 8:30 PM Check into the New Jersey hotel.
Private hotel security will be provided.

Friday, February 14, 2025

- 7:30 AM **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- 8:30 AM Transfer by motor coach.
- 9:30 AM Arrive and prepare for our workshop.
- 10:00 AM Participate in the **Living the Music Workshop** with Broadway Inbound. A Broadway musical director or Broadway singer will guide your students in the art of interpreting a song through vocal dynamics and phrasing, using provided Broadway material. With the guidance of a master class instructor, the students discuss the music's lyrics and what may be the emotional intention behind them. Toward the end of the master class, the students have an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned by singing the song with the Broadway guest performer, and will have an insightful question and answer discussion. This workshop empowers students with a sense of self-discovery through music.
- 12:00 PM Walk to Rockefeller Center.
- 12:30 PM Enjoy some free time to explore and grab lunch at **Rockefeller Center**, home to NBC Studios, a seasonal ice rink, the beautiful Channel Gardens and many eateries and stores. (\$20 will be loaded on your JASSBY Debit Card)
- 1:30 PM Take a guided tour of **Radio City Music Hall** and go behind the scenes of the showplace of the nation. Discover art deco masterpieces, visit Radio City's secret apartment *The Roxy Suite*, get exclusive views of the majestic auditorium, learn the history of the iconic *Great Stage*, and complete the tour by meeting and taking a photo with a **Radio City Rockette**. (Each tour takes a maximum of 33 people)
- 3:00 PM Take a stroll along the Big Apple's most famous street, **Fifth Avenue**, also known as Millionaire's Row. It crosses the whole of Manhattan from north to south and it is New York's most expensive and best shopping street with the world's most expensive retail spaces.
- 4:15 PM Visit **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, one of the largest churches in the U.S., the cathedral features twin spires 300-feet-high that grace this 13th Century Gothic-style structure.
- 5:00 PM Walk to Times Square.
- 5:30 PM Enjoy dinner at **John's Pizzeria of Times Square**, which has been voted one of New York's best pizzas because of its unique coal-fired brick ovens.



- 7:00 PM Walk to the theater.
- 7:30 PM Arrive at the theater and be seated.
- 8:00 PM Enjoy a **Broadway Show**. (*\$110 per ticket has been allotted. Exact show will be determined based on availability on your dates*)
- 10:30 PM Transfer by motor coach to the hotel.
Private hotel security will be provided.

Saturday, February 15, 2025

- 7:45 AM **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- 8:45 AM Check-out of the hotel and load the motor coach.
- 9:15 AM Transfer by motor coach.
- 10:00 AM Visit the **Museum of Broadway**, which has teamed up with internationally renowned artists, designers, and theatre historians to create an interactive experience that highlights groundbreaking moments in Broadway's history. Learn about the moments that pushed creative boundaries, challenged social norms, and paved the way for those who would follow. See hundreds of rare costumes, props and artifacts up close and experience Broadway like never before. Go behind the curtain into the making of Broadway show with a special exhibit honoring the community of brilliantly talented professionals, both onstage and off, who bring Broadway plays and musicals to life every night.
- 11:30 AM Explore and grab lunch around **Times Square**, at the junction of Broadway and Seventh Avenue. Brightly lit by numerous billboards and advertisements, it is often referred to as "the Crossroads of the World," and it is the hub of the Broadway Theater District. (*\$20 will be loaded on your JASSBY Debit Card*)
- 1:00 PM Transfer by motor coach.
- 1:30 PM Visit the **Empire State Building** and ascend to the **86th Floor Observatory** for some of the best views of New York City.
- 3:00 PM Transfer by motor coach.
- 3:30 PM Explore **The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)**, powerhouse in the modern art world that doubles as one of the best-known museums on the globe. The collection features iconic works from Warhol, Picasso, Rousseau, Dali, Kahlo and many more. Enjoy viewing *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gogh.
- 5:00 PM Walk to dinner.
- 5:30 PM Arrive for your group dinner at **Hard Rock Cafe Times Square**.
- 7:00 PM Walk to the theater.
- 7:30 PM Arrive at the theater and be seated.
- 8:00 PM Enjoy a matinee **Broadway Show**. (*\$110 per ticket has been allotted. Exact show will be determined based on availability on your dates*)
- 10:30 PM Your motor coach departs to return to the school. (*11 hours have been allotted for the drive; plus 1.75 hours for rest stops/meals on your own along the route*)

Sunday, February 16, 2025

- 7:00 AM Stop for breakfast. (*\$10 will be loaded on your JASSBY Debit Card*)
- 11:15 AM Arrive back at the school.

PLEASE NOTE: *In keeping with Educational Tours, Inc.'s commitment to safety and security, we prepare each itinerary in accordance with the DOT rules and regulations, giving drivers a minimum of 9 hours off each night and a maximum of 15 hours on duty during any 24-hour period. We reserve the right to revise the itinerary, at any time, due to unforeseen circumstances such as traffic, road closures, site closures, weather, etc. Your Tour Manager will consult with the Group Leader and drivers on any changes.*



**EDUCATIONAL
TOURS, INC.**

**Trip Prices for Mineral Point High School Choir
Pricing 1.0 Valid until 9/14/24**

Pricing Details & Ranges	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55
Trip Price Per Participant (<i>quad rooming</i>)	\$1,660	\$1,531	\$1,437	\$1,363	\$1,299
Number of Adults Upgraded to Double Rooms	10	10	10	10	10
Number of Adults Upgraded to Single Rooms	1	1	1	1	1
Number of Complimentary Places Included	2	2	2	2	2
Triple Room Supplement (<i>per person</i>)	\$37				
Double Room Supplement (<i>per person</i>)	\$107				
Single Room Supplement (<i>per person</i>)	\$321				

What is Included:

- Ground transportation by private motor coach as per your itinerary (*Coaches are modern, clean, and always compliant with industry health and safety standards*)
- Accommodation in a quality hotel (*quad rooming for students*), including exclusive nighttime security in the hotel for your group
- All admissions, activities, workshops and performances as stated and bolded on your custom itinerary (*Workshop minimum counts must be met. Students participating in more than one workshop will be charged an additional fee and will be dependent on itinerary timing. Students participating in more than one performance will be charged an additional fee and will be dependent on itinerary timing.*)
- All meals as stated on your itinerary
- A professional Tour Director to accompany your group exclusively from arrival through departure
- All gratuities for bus drivers and the Tour Director
- Group Travel Videos App (*Group Messaging, Group Mapping, Group Photo Gallery, Document Sharing, Post Trip Link to a Group Video*)
- \$4,000,000 Liability Insurance
- Travel Protection, which includes Accident and Sickness, and Travel Delay protection for all participants after departure, will be purchased on your behalf.
- Emergency Phone Service 24/7/365 (*Call 1-800-654-4560*)

Items Not Included:

- Fuel surcharges imposed by any third-party provider (*Motor coach, airline, etc. and if assessed, will be billed to you.*)
- Any items not mentioned above or in the detailed itinerary
- Optional Additional Travel Protection, which adds Trip Cancellation and Cancel for Any Reason to the above product, is available for purchase and follows Educational Tours, Inc.'s cancellation policy. Information about this protection can be found when individuals register for the trip at www.groupcollect.com.

Please Note the Following:

- * **Online Registration for Individuals** is included at no additional cost for all participants.
- * **Lifeguards** may not be available at every swimming opportunity. ETI recommends no swimming without a lifeguard present. If you allow swimming without a lifeguard present, ETI is not responsible for the supervision or safety of the group.
- * **Trip inclusions** are based on prices as of time of this quotation. The itinerary is subject to availability, rate confirmation, and final reservation confirmation at the time of finalizing the Travel Agreement with Educational Tours Inc.
- * **Hotel Check-in is 4:00 pm.** Earlier check-in is not an option with group programs. Not all rooms are guaranteed to be ready by 4:00 pm.

Fundraising and Scholarship Opportunities through Okemos:

Okemos Choir Boosters: Throughout their time in the Okemos Choir Program (Grades 7-12), students will have the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities that will benefit both the program as a whole and give them the chance to contribute to their individual student account. Money that is accumulated through student fundraisers can be used for choir travel.

Okemos Music Patron Scholarships: Each spring select students are awarded monetary scholarships from the generous donations collected by the Okemos Music Patrons. Recipients are chosen based on commitment to improve their musicianship during the academic year, as well as leadership and service to the choir program.

Scholarships through Bob Rogers Travel:

Moments That Matter Scholarship: Students traveling with their school or educational program on a future trip with Bob Rogers Travel may apply for BRT's Moments That Matter Scholarship, which awards up to \$500 each to a limited number of deserving students with financial need. The application deadline is October 21; students must complete an essay, application and receive a signature from their teacher.

The SYTA Youth Foundation Road Scholarship: Students are also eligible for the SYTA Youth Foundation's Road Scholarship Program, which awards funds to youth who are unable to afford the cost of their group's travel. Students must be nominated by their teacher through a brief web-based form. View complete rules, deadlines, and the application [here](#). The SYTA Youth Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Student and Youth Travel Association, of which BRT is a proud member and benefactor.