



Rhianna Walworth <rhianna.walworth@okemosk12.net>

8th Grade Chicago Trip - Info for Board

1 message

Megan Anderson <megan.anderson@okemosk12.net>
To: Rhianna Walworth <rhianna.walworth@okemosk12.net>

Wed, May 8, 2024 at 8:00 AM

Dear OPS Board of Education,

We are very excited to bring back a treasured musical experience for our 8th grade orchestra students. It was a tradition for the 8th grade orchestra to visit Chicago for a long weekend of musical enrichment. Unfortunately, this trip has not happened in the past seven years due to time constraints and Covid.

In looking at opportunities available to our students, we determined that it was time to bring this tradition back.

We are asking to take the 8th grade orchestra to Chicago on May 2nd and 3rd of 2025. The trip will include a visit to Shedd Aquarium, an orchestra concert, a workshop with a college music professor from Vandercook College, and a musical. We have talked to World Strides Educational Travel, and they have put together the attached itinerary for you. World Strides also provides a travel guide and night-time security in our hotel, among other benefits and necessities.

The cost for the trip is \$538 per student. This includes access to all venues and activities, all travel and hotel expenses, and all meals. Students will not have to travel with any money, if they don't want to. We have been running a successful "cookie dough" fundraiser the past two years in the fall, and we plan to let any money students raise through this fundraiser to count towards the cost of their trip. We want every eligible student to travel with us, if they choose, so we want to make sure that all students have the chance to fundraise towards their trip.

Our plan is to take two coach travel buses. Each bus can hold 55 passengers. In class, we did a quick "hands-up" survey and discussion to gauge the level of student-interest in a Chicago trip. We were pleased to see that most students were interested. So, we don't believe we'll have a problem filling two buses.


Please read through the itinerary and the payment plan from World Strides. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about the trip. Hopefully, this can be approved soon so we can move forward with getting our students booked for the trip. Once approved, we will have a parent information meeting before the end of the school year. There will be a World Strides representative at the meeting to answer parent questions.

Thank you for your consideration,
Megan Anderson & Justin Valla

Ms. Megan Anderson
(she/her)
Orchestra Teacher
Chippewa 7-8 School



2 attachments

 Chippewa MSO Tour Itinerary 4-2-24 (1).pdf
310K

 Chippewa MSO Tour Proposal 4-2-24 (1).pdf
198K

Day One - Friday May 2, 2025

7:30 AM Motorcoach arrives at School

8:00 AM Depart

Lunch en route with \$10 meal money

Millennium Park

Visit Kapoor's Cloud Gate, also known as "The Bean" and The Crown Fountain

1:00 PM **Orchestra Clinic at the VanderCook College of Music**

Experience an orchestra clinic at VanderCook College of Music. The mission of VanderCook is to enrich the lives of present and future generations through the preparation of teachers in instrumental, choral, and general music disciplines. Our broad-based curriculum is designed to prepare teachers with strong character, skill in the process of teaching, and respect for the essential role of music in our culture.

3:00 PM **John Hancock Center's 360 Chicago**

Travel up to the 94th floor of the iconic John Hancock building, where you'll be greeted by panoramic views of Chicago's famous skyline, Lake Michigan and Navy Pier.

5:15 PM **Enjoy Dinner with Chicago Deep Dish Pizzal**

7:30 PM **Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concert**

Gallery Seating
Brahms - Piano Concerto No. 2
Boulez - Initiale
Dvorák - Symphony No. 7
Check into your hotel

Private overnight security at the hotel

Day Two - Saturday May 3, 2025

7:15 AM **Breakfast at the Hotel**

8:15 AM Check out of hotel and load luggage on motorcoach

9:00 AM **Shedd Aquarium & Oceanarium (No aquatic Show)**

Home to aquatic creatures from all over the world, the Shedd Aquarium educates visitors about the waters of Earth at its residency on the shore of Lake Michigan. Your ticket includes Access to Abbott Oceanarium, Wild Reef and Aquarium Galleries, Amphibians Special Exhibit. (Aquatic Show and 4-D Experience are not included.)

Explore Navy Pier

Lunch with \$15 meal money

2:00 PM **Broadway Musical Performance - TBD**

Dinner Included

6:30 PM Depart for home

11:30 PM Arrive

In keeping with WorldStrides' commitment to safety and security, all of our itineraries are compliant with Department of Transportation rules and regulations giving drivers at least 9 hours off each night and a maximum of 15 hours on duty during any 24 hour period.

Your WorldStrides Course Leader and Guides reserve the right to revise your group's itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances such as traffic, road closures, site closures, and weather. Your Course Leader or Guide will consult with the Director and Bus Driver(s) on any changes.

Tour Details

Destination: Chicago

Departing: Friday May 2, 2025 8:00 AM

Returning: Saturday May 3, 2025 11:30 PM

Tour Pricing by Participation

Paying Passengers	106
Complimentary Chaperones (Double Occupancy)	2
Student Price (Quad Occupancy)	\$ 538
Paying Adult Price (Double Occupancy)	\$ 618

What's Included

Transportation

- Deluxe Motorcoach

Accommodation

- 1 Night

Meals

- 1 breakfast
- 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
- Luggage Tags and Lanyards
- Drawstring Backpacks
- 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

- Orchestra Clinic at the VanderCook College of Music
- Millennium Park
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concert
- Shedd Aquarium & Oceanarium (No aquatic Show)
- Explore Navy Pier
- Broadway Musical Performance - TBD
- John Hancock Center's 360 Chicago



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.

Full Refund Program (FRP)

- Cost for individual participation: \$60.00 per person

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