

Dear School Board Members,

Katrina Andrusick and Gabrielle Van Grootheest would like to submit the high school choir/band tour to Memphis and New Orleans for approval. Our tentative itinerary is attached to this document. A brief summary includes a 6 day tour to Memphis and New Orleans, including travel time on a coach bus. We would leave on Tuesday, April 23rd, and return Sunday, April 28th which aligns with spring break.

Our rationale for the trip is as follows:

1. Each ensemble will have the opportunity to perform in a completely new environment within the music department at the University of Memphis and participate in a masterclass with music professors that will critique and improve our performance.
2. Students will learn and engage with a variety of historical and cultural exhibits, from Graceland (Elvis), jazz musical performances, and the Spanish and Creole history of New Orleans on a graveyard and cafe tour.
3. Students will benefit from experiencing a culture that contrasts what they know here in Crosby, MN.
4. Students will have the opportunity to bond and form stronger relationships with their peer musicians.

Offering a tour to our band and choir students is a great way to ensure participation in both band and choir. We want to have as many students as possible in the Crosby-Ironton Music Department. These past few years have been especially tough on the music program from Covid-19, and students stayed with music for the tour and need a fun, musical getaway now more than ever. This will be our first tour outside of neighboring states since 2018. Through fundraising and scholarships, there are many students participating that would otherwise not have the opportunity to travel. We feel very fortunate to be able to offer this experience to Crosby-Ironton music students!

Thank you for taking the time to consider our Band and Choir tour proposal.

Sincerely,

Katrina Andrusick-Choir Director

Gabi Van Grootheest- Band Director