



Curriculum Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 7, 2024  
3:00 PM  
Remote Session

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- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of April 2024 meeting minutes
- III. Overnight Field Trip Presentation:
  - Music Department's Imagination Campus- Feb 27-March 3, 2025
- IV. Curriculum & Instruction Updates:
  - State testing update
  - Earth Day celebrations
  - New! Leader and Teacher Evaluation Plan (BOE vote on June 17)
  - Exciting News! Weston High School Ranked #4 Best High School in CT
- V. Next meeting topics:
  - Academic Year in Review including a student showcase (in-person at WIS Room 118)
- VI. Adjournment

## **Curriculum Committee Meeting**

April 9, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Via Google Meet

### Present Committee Members:

Bernadette Kingsley (Chairperson), David Felton

### Present Administration:

Tina Henckel, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent; Meghan Conetta, WHS Principal; Pattie Falber, WIS Principal; Laura Kaddis, HES Principal; Matthew Filip, WHS Assistant Principal; Erin Barlow, 3-5 Math and Science CIL; Kelly DeVecchio, K-2 Math and Science CIL; Beth Lancaster, 6-12 Science and Technology CIL; Riley Rapoport, 6-12 Math CIL

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m.

Discussion:

Dr. Henckel reviewed the general purpose of the Curriculum Committee meetings and reviewed the virtual meeting norms.

### **2. Approval of March 2024 meeting minutes**

Motion Passed: Move that the Curriculum Committee approve the March 2024 meeting minutes. This motion made by David Felton and seconded by Bernadette Kingsley.

**2 Yeas - 0 Nays**

### **3. Status of Core Math Program Pilot-Grades 1-5**

Discussion:

- Curriculum Leaders Kelly DeVecchio and Erin Barlow presented an update on the math programs that are being piloted this year for grades 1-5. They reviewed the timeline of the piloted units and the list of materials and lesson structure of each. Units/lessons were strategically chosen to coincide with lessons being taught in the classrooms with the current district core math program for comparison. Both students and teachers are being surveyed for feedback.
- New core math program implementation is still in the discussion stage. Grades 3 and 4 will not be introducing a new pilot program because of the implementation of the new reading program beginning in September.
- Dr. Henckel and CIL Riley Rapoport gave an update on the Illustrative Math program pilot in 6-8 math and Algebra.

### **4. Curriculum & Instruction Updates**

Discussion:

- Solar Eclipse
  - CILs Beth Lancaster, Erin Barlow and Kelly DelVecchio spoke on the coordinated district viewing event of the April 8, 2024 solar eclipse. As part of the planning, the CILs worked with teachers to provide resources on how to work the eclipse into multiple classroom subjects.
- State Testing
  - The start of the SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessments) and NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) testing will begin the week following spring break.
- Planning for Literacy Adoption Grades 3-5
  - Dr. Henckel provided a summary of the American Reading Company (ARC) and DIBELS8 assessment and training.
- CT Leader and Teacher Evaluation and Support Plan
  - Dr. Henckel spoke on the state-mandated support plan. An ad-hoc committee has been meeting over the past several months to customize the state-recommended plan. There will be a union vote. The finalized plan will be presented to the Board as well.
- Chinese Program Update
  - Principal Meghan Conetta gave an update on the Chinese program at Weston High School. She presented historical data on Chinese language course enrollment. She and her team decided to discontinue the Chinese language program due to low enrollment. Students who are currently enrolled will be able to finish out their course sequence but no new students will be accepted.

## **5. Next Meeting Topics**

- Preparing for June in-person Academic Year in Review presentation.

## **7. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WESTON, CT

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP APPROVAL REQUEST FORM

SUBJECT AREA: Music COST PER STUDENT: Estimated \$2170.00 (contingent on airfare)

DATE OF FIELD TRIP: 2/27 – 3/3/25 FIELD TRIP DESTINATION: Orlando, FL (Disney Imagination!  
Campus and Walt Disney World)

STATE THE EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE OR RATIONALE FOR THE TRIP:  
Please see attached document

Departure from: Bus: Weston Flight: NYC Date/Time: 2/27/25

Return to: Flight: NYC Bus: Weston Date/Time: 3/3/25

Number of students: Capped at 150 students, trip will be open to approx. 240 (est. '24-'25 music program)

Minimum number per ensemble: Approximately 20 Grade(s): 9-12

Total Number of Chaperones: 11-12 add'l (14-15 total including HS music staff)

Names of Teachers: Meg Stewart  
Liz Morris  
Steve Fasoli

Other Adults: 1. ADMIN- Matt Filip  
2. Arielle Luksberg  
3. Janine Russo  
4. Dawn Boulton  
5. Dan Passarelli  
6. Evan Grace  
7. Trinity Klein  
8. Chris Sadler  
9. Adreinne Camp  
10. Erin Lucia  
11. Renate Roehl  
12. Barb Caracciolo  
Tina Conetta\*  
Gina Arena \*  
Jennifer Klein\*  
Nicole Profitt\*\*

\*Contingent on student signups or potential chaperone cancellations – these are EXTRA SIGNUPS, just “in case” – we only NEED 1-12

\*\*Contingent on AFSCME Contract, and if Admin deems it necessary to have a nurse on the trip. Extra expense has not been budgeted beyond the overnight teacher stipend.

\*\*\*\*\*CHAPERONES REVISED 4/25/24 – Latest version

Substitute coverage will be required:  X  Yes   No  
Parent Informational Meeting: Date  May 22, 2024   
Location  WHS Auditorium /Livestream or Zoom

TRANSPORTATION (Please check one)

- First Student: Yes   No  X  If yes, how many buses?
- Alternate Bus Company Name  Provided by Tour Company- Land Jet or Dattco
  - Van: Driver Name
  - Student Driver: Name(s)

Have you completed and attached to this request form a copy of the cover letter sent to parents? Yes  X\*  No    
**\*Not sent to parents until approval is granted.**

Signed:    
(Teacher)

Requested by:    
(Principal)

Pre-Approval:    
(Assistant Superintendent)

Pre-Approval:    
(Director of Finance and Operations)

INSURANCE COVERAGE:

Approved:    
(BOE Chairperson)

Copies (once approved):

- Teacher
- Principal or Designee
- Bus Garage (First Student)
- Finance & Operations Office
- Assistant Superintendent
- Human Resources

# Weston Music Annual Field Trip 2025

## Rationale and Curricular Purpose

### Disney's Imagination Campus – Walt Disney World

#### Soundtrack Sessions: Recording Artist Experience

- **Masterclass with a world-class Disney conductor/composer & sound production team**
  - Rehearsal
  - Recording
  - Technique work
  - Creative decision-making
- Rehearse, perform, record the way professional ensembles do.
- Sight-read exclusive Disney repertoire
- **Experience a professional recording studio—not available in WHS curriculum**
- Record repertoire w/ pro team
- Student performances mixed by production team as the unique soundtrack to a Disney short film.
  - Souvenir DVD to take home!

#### Amphitheater Concert Performance

- **Additional repertoire preparation for public performance at Disney's Water View Park Amphitheater**
  - Audition video required for eligibility
  - Rehearse extra repertoire prior to the trip
- **Live, open-to-the-public concert**
- **Venue is unlike anything** currently available to them.
- **Concert will be mic'd and broadcast** through Disney Springs.
- Concert will be recorded for post-trip response (NCAS Standard) purposes.

#### In-Park Performing Arts Exposure

- **Students will be immersed in the creative, performing arts Giant that is Disney**
  - Live and recorded concerts, Live theater, Variety stage performances, Parades, Animated and experiential art, Firework/Waterwork shows

#### National Core Arts Standards (NCAS): Before, during, and after trip

- *Creating*, Anchor Standards 1,2,3
- *Performing*, Anchor Standards 4, 5, 6
- *Responding*, Anchor Standards 7,8, 9
- *Connecting*, Anchor Standard 10, 11



Curricular purposes and rationale for the music trip to Orlando, Walt Disney World, Disney Imagination! Campus:

- This trip will require repertoire preparation that coincides with and broadens each ensemble's curricular repertoire, for the purposes of performance. Taped auditions for Disney Stage time are required before ensembles are eligible to participate.

-Students will give a live concert in the Water View Park Amphitheater to the public. This open-air venue is unlike anything they have access to in Weston. This concert is open to the public and music will be mic'd and broadcast through the speakers in the surrounding areas, providing a scenario unlike the typical concert in the WHS auditorium.

<https://www.disneycampus.com/programs/performing-arts/stage-performances/>

-Students will experience a masterclass with a world-class Disney professional conductor/composer, and will experience what it's like to rehearse and perform a Disney score as professional studio musicians do. Masterclasses are an invaluable way for students to experience repertoire in a new way, under a new conductor.

- Through Disney's Imagination! Campus, students will become studio musicians in a live recording session in an Imagination! Studio. They will sight-read brand new music, and experience/learn about the fast-tracked, on-demand performance expectations needed to make a motion picture soundtrack. They will record their own unique soundtrack, the way a professional ensemble would, listen to playback, discuss technique and musicality choices that affect performance, and then ultimately leave with a video recording of their soundtrack mixed by professional engineers to a Disney short film. This is an excellent opportunity to participate in a technological experience that they do not have access to through the WHS program of studies.

<https://www.disneycampus.com/programs/performing-arts/soundtrack-sessions-instrumental/>

- In the parks, students will have access to the creative giant that the Disney company is: live and recorded musical performances, musical theatre, animated art, experiential art, and firework/waterwork shows with technical theatre elements that make Disney such an immersive experience.

[National Core Arts Standards and Common Core Standards tied to the Disney Stage performances and Imagination! Campus Workshops](#)

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Weston, Connecticut**

**OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP DETAILED DOCUMENTATION**

Trip Destination(s): Orlando FL, Walt Disney World, Disney Imagination! Campus

Departure Date: 2/27/25

Return Date: 3/3/25

Trip Leader(s): Stewart/Morris

Travel Agency/Trip Sponsor ("Trip Advisor") (if any): Bennett Student Travel

Detailed Itinerary:

*\*See Attached Itinerary*

Flight Information:

*This information is not available until we collect deposits and hold airline tickets.*

Hotel Information:

*Disney's Pop Century Resort Hotel*

Means of Travel:

*charter bus and airline*

Travel Budget: **Below is the customized program designed for the Weston High School Music Department by Bennett Student Travel. The following is a summary of what is included in the program:**

*Busing in Connecticut*

*Round Trip Air Fare to Orlando*

*Busing in Florida*

*4 Nights Hotel and Taxes - DOUBLE Occupancy*

*4-Day Walt Disney Admission*

*Disney Workshops*

*4 Breakfasts - \$20 cash each*

*5 Dinners - \$20 cash each*

*Large Instrument Rentals*

*Instrument Baggage Fees*

*One Security Guard*

*14 Teacher Stipends*

*T-Shirts*

*Directors/Teachers/Nurse Expenses*

*Travel Services*

*Contingency Funds*

***Total Cost: \$2170/student***

# Weston High School



115 School Road  
Weston, Connecticut 06883

Ms. Meghan Conetta, Principal  
Mr. Matthew Filip, Assistant Principal  
Ms. Juliane Givoni, Assistant Principal

Telephone: (203) 221-6500  
Fax: (203) 291-1603

March 26, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Weston High School Music Department is excited by the opportunity to bring students from our Bands, Orchestras and Chorale on the highly-anticipated, workshop and performance trip to Walt Disney World and Disney's Imagination! Campus. The ensembles will work with world class Disney conductors/composers in the *Studio Sessions: Instrumental* and *Soundtrack Sessions: Vocal* recording studio workshops, give live concerts for the public at the *Disney Waterview Park Amphitheater*, and enjoy live performances and attractions in the parks.

The cost of this trip is estimated to be **\$2170.00 per student** for a double occupancy room at a Disney Resort Hotel (**pending airfare rates**).

**The tour package includes:**

- Busing in Connecticut
- Round Trip Air Fare to Orlando - Estimated
- Busing in Florida
- 4 Nights Disney Resort Hotel and Taxes
- 4-Day Walt Disney Admission Ticket
- Disney Workshops – Instrumental/Vocal
- 4 Breakfasts - \$20 cash each
- 5 Dinners - \$20 cash each
- Gratuities
- Overnight Security
- Tour Manager and Travel Services
- WPS Chaperones
- Ensemble Disney Trip T-shirt

Students will need to pay for lunch during the trip and should bring spending money if they'd like. **We recommend that each student brings \$20 in cash for lunch each day.** Students should wear comfortable attire and walking shoes and concert dress for performances.

Given the nature of an overnight trip, there will be a maximum of 10-12 students per chaperone. If at any time during the trip students are not directly supervised by a chaperone, our expectation is that they stay together in small groups. No one is allowed to be alone and unsupervised when we are outside of the hotel.

# Weston High School



115 School Road  
Weston, Connecticut 06883

Ms. Meghan Conetta, Principal  
Mr. Matthew Filip, Assistant Principal  
Ms. Juliane Givoni, Assistant Principal

Telephone: (203) 221-6500  
Fax: (203) 291-1603

**To secure a spot on the trip you will need:**

- a signed Weston Public School permission slip,**
- a completed Bennett Student Travel Registration Form,**
- the \$400 non-refundable deposit must be turned into your director by June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The payment plan and cancellation policies are outlined in the attached packet from Bennett Student Travel. The balance will be calculated once the number of trip participants, and airfare have been finalized.

Fundraising opportunities may be made available for all students through the Weston Performing Arts Booster Club.

If there is financial hardship, please contact the Principal, Ms. Meghan Conetta, at (203) 221-6502. If you have any other questions, please contact your child's music teacher.

We are so excited to share another musical experience with our students! We hope your child will join us for this exciting experience in Florida!

Sincerely,

Liz Morris  
Choral Director

Meghan Stewart  
Orchestra Director

Steve Fasoli  
Band Director

Meghan Conetta  
WHS Principal

# Weston High School Music Department

## Disney World Trip - Tentative Schedule

**Thursday**      **February 27th, 2025**

Load the buses after school at Weston High School  
 The buses will bring the group from Weston High School to the airport  
 There will be time to buy dinner at the airport - \$20 cash provided  
 Fly to Orlando, Florida in the evening  
 The buses will bring the group to Disney's Pop Century Resort Hotel

**Friday**      **February 28th, 2025**

Breakfast at the hotel - \$20 cash provided  
 Bus from the hotel to Disney's Magic Kingdom  
 Admission into Disney's Magic Kingdom  
 Lunch is on your own in the park - Not Included  
 Dinner is on your own in the park - \$20 cash provided  
 Watch the Magic Kingdom fireworks show - Happily Ever After!  
 Bus from the Magic Kingdom to the hotel

**Saturday**      **March 1st, 2025**

Breakfast at the hotel - \$20 cash provided  
 Bus from the hotel to Disney's Hollywood Studios  
 Admission into Disney's Hollywood Studios  
 Lunch is on your own in the park - Not Included  
**Disney's "You're Instrumental" Concert Band workshop**  
**Disney's "You're Instrumental" Orchestra workshop**  
**Disney's "Disney Sings" workshop**  
 Dinner is on your own in the park - \$20 cash provided  
 Option One - Watch the Hollywood Studios nighttime show - Fantasmic!  
 Option Two - Spend time at the hotel pool  
 Bus from Hollywood Studios to the hotel

TBA  
 TBA  
 TBA

**Sunday**      **March 2nd, 2025**

Breakfast at the hotel - \$20 cash provided  
 Bus from the hotel to Disney's Epcot  
 Admission into Disney's Epcot  
 Lunch is on your own in the park - Not Included  
**The Weston High School Concert Band will perform**  
**The Weston High School Orchestra will perform**  
**The Weston High School Choir will perform**  
 Dinner is on your own in the park - \$20 cash provided  
 Watch the fireworks show - Epcot Forever!  
 Bus from Epcot to the hotel

TBA  
 TBA  
 TBA

**Monday**      **March 3rd, 2025**

Breakfast at the hotel - \$20 cash provided  
 Bus from the hotel to Disney's Animal Kingdom  
 Admission into Disney's Animal Kingdom  
 Lunch is on your own in the park - Not Included  
 Bus from Disney's Animal Kingdom to the Orlando Airport  
 Dinner is on your own at the Orlando Airport - \$20 cash provided  
 Fly home from Orlando  
 The buses will bring the group back to Weston High School