**Dodgen Middle School Chorus**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS NEED TO REGISTER AND PAY THROUGH THIS LINK:** [**https://superholiday.groupcollect.com/go/dmsc30062-24**](https://superholiday.groupcollect.com/go/dmsc30062-24)

Chris Whittington & LeAnna Iddings

**Disney Trip: Initial Information**

**January 31-February 4, 2024**

Dear Dodgen Eighth Grade Chorus Parents and Students,

We have an exciting year ahead, as usual, but with the added excitement of our workshop experience at Disney World! The following information is provided to answer questions you may have regarding our upcoming trip. We have been delayed in rolling out this trip because we have been waiting on trip approval at the county level. We appreciate your patience during this time. Our travel company is Super Holiday Tours and we will be managed by Mark Drury. We know that this will make payments and managing the trip, before we travel and during the trip, easier. He will organize the Disney trips for our Dodgen Band, Orchestra, and Chorus for our trips this year. Please carefully read the section below as we explain how we are going to allow students to use cheesecake profits toward trip expenses. We are looking for parent chaperones as well. All chaperones must be approved by the chorus teachers and school administration. If you are interested, please send an email to either address below. The chaperone cost will be discounted. All monies need to be submitted on the platform at the same time as students. Please let us know if you are able to help chaperone on this trip by emailing us Christopher.whittington@cobbk12.org or leanna.iddings@cobbk12.org.

1. **Trip Expenses and Payment schedule:**
	1. **Total trip cost: $960.00 and includes the following:**
		1. Transportation on motor coach to and from Disney World and all local transportation while on the trip.
		2. Hotel cost for three nights (January 31, February 1 & February 2, 2024)
		3. All Meals-except dinner to and from Orlando-*this will be a fast food stop*
		4. All Disney park admission tickets
		5. Cost for 2 T-shirts to be worn on Thursday and Friday of the trip.
	2. Payment Schedule and Terms
		1. $300.00 per person deposit DUE BY OCTOBER 15, 2023 ($75 non refundable)
		2. $200.00 per person deposit DUE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2022
		3. $200.00 per person deposit DUE BY DECEMBER 1, 2022
		4. $Remaining Balance DUE BY JANUARY 1, 2023

Students turning in the initial payment of $200.00 after October 15th will be placed on a waiting list based on gender and only be allowed to participate in the trip if another student cancels.

* 1. **Cheesecake Sale Profits:** To help in gathering the needed funds to make this trip possible, we have designed a plan that may be useful for some families. Any chorus student involved in this trip who sells more than 10 items from their cheesecake sale may use 100% of the profit beyond 5 items to go towards their Disney trip expenses. For example: a student sells 15 items. The average profit for each item they personally sold is $9. Therefore, $45 would go to the chorus and $90 would go towards the child’s Disney trip. By using this formula, we will still raise the needed funds to maintain our program while helping out the individual student.

**STUDENT ACCOUNTS WILL BE ADJUSTED WITH THIS CREDIT AFTER OCTOBER 20TH.**

1. **Trip Preparation:**
	1. Along with this letter we have given you the Dodgen Student Behavioral Guidelines and Policies, posted on the Disney page on the website. You will note there are serious consequences for any students not complying with Dodgen and Cobb County field trip policies. These policies are in place to ensure your child, and all students, have a great time on the trip while maintaining a safe and orderly environment at all times.
	2. We will have a MANDATORY Parent/Student Trip Meeting immediately following our Winter Concert in the Dodgen Theater on Thursday, December 14, 2023
2. **Disney Trip Departure Day:**
	1. You will receive detailed information at our parent meeting as to what your child will need to bring on this trip, while keeping luggage needs to a minimum.
	2. There are important Cobb County guidelines regarding medication for students and these guidelines must be followed. Details regarding medication will be distributed along with the trip itinerary at our parent meeting date. Those parents with children requiring special medication are most likely already familiar with these Cobb County policies and know the routine.
		1. Regardless if your child takes medication or not, please make sure we have your updated medical form.

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**DODGEN STUDENT BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR FIELD TRIPS**

Failure to follow guidelines and policies set by the State of Georgia Department of Education, Cobb County Public Schools, and specific behavioral rules established by Dodgen Middle School can result in the following:

* Restriction from the field trip prior to departure (payments WILL NOT be refunded)
* Restriction of activities while participating in the field trip
* Disciplinary actions while on the field trip
* While on the trip, if the student does not adhere to these polices, he/she can be dismissed from the trip at the expense of the parent/guardian

These expectations for behavior have been established to provide students and chaperones at Dodgen Middle School with an orderly, safe, and enjoyable learning experience while participating on the trip.

The Cobb County Board Policy IFCB states that:

Teachers, working with school administrators, have the authority to exclude the participation of students whose *behavioral history suggest the possibility that they* *may endanger themselves or others while on the field trips.* This discretion must be made on actual student behavior and not based on disability identification.

The State of Georgia Student Discipline Code JD 160-4-8-.15 supports Dodgen Middle School’s behavioral guidelines by stating:

Standards for student behavior during the school day and at school-related functions are designed to create the expectations that students will behave themselves in such a way so as to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students, respect each other and school district employees, obey student behavior policies adopted by the local board of education, and *obey student behavior rules established by individual schools.*

The Cobb County Board Policy JCDA, Section IV, Line A, Paragraph 3, supports Dodgen Middle School’s Behavioral guidelines by stating:

The principal or designee may utilize any of the above discipline management techniques, and/or may employ: student participation in conference with parent/guardian, teacher, and/or principal, *restriction from school programs and* *special activities*… and any other disciplinary technique that positively promotes the student code of conduct and desired character trait(s).

**Student restrictions from the field trip will include, but are not limited to, the following:**

* Any student who earns OSS will NOT be permitted to participate in the trip.
* Students whose receive three days of ISS (starting on the first day of school through the date of the trip) will NOT be permitted to participate in the trip. The decision will be made by the choir directors and an administrator. The decision is non-negotiable.
* Other behavior concerns will be addressed on a case by case basis and may result in exclusion from the trip.

 \*\***If fees have been paid**, **some, or all of the fees will not be refundable**. Exemplary behavior is expected at school to earn a place on this optional field trip.

I understand the above guidelines and policies and agree to adhere to these policies; furthermore, I will discuss these policies with my child prior to the field trip, so that there is complete understanding of these rules and expectations as stated by Dodgen Middle School behavioral guidelines.

Parent Signature Student Signature

Parent Name Student Name