

2024 Vandegrift HS Percussion Ensemble

The Midwest Clinic – International Band and Orchestra Conference McCormick Place
Convention Center
Chicago, IL
Wednesday-Friday, December 18-20, 2024

Flight Information

TO CHICAGO – United Airlines #1577 – 12/18/24, Departs AUS 10:00 AM; Arrives ORD 12:45 PM
RETURN TO AUSTIN –United #457 – 12/20/24, Departs ORD 8:10 PM; Arrives AUS 11:12 PM

Hotel Information

Embassy Suites by Hilton Chicago Downtown
600 N. State St.
Chicago, IL 60654

Spending Money

All meals will be provided for the students. Several of the meals on this trip will be 'per diem' meals and students are given an allotment of money to eat on their own. Students will receive a preloaded card at the beginning of the trip for per diem meals. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT STUDENTS HOLD ONTO THIS CARD AND NOT OVERSPEND ON IT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIP.

Luggage Restrictions

Students will be spending two nights in Chicago. Please pack conservatively but do make plans to dress warm. We will be spending some time outside. Please be aware of TSA rules when taking bags through security. Each student may bring one carry-on item plus one personal item (purse, backpack, etc.). Your carry-on must not exceed 24"L x 16"W x 10"H. Your personal item must be able to fit under the seat in front of you. Be sure that all luggage (including carry-on) is clearly marked with your name, address, and phone number. **Students will not be allowed to check bags on this trip.**

What to Pack...reminders

1. Cell phone and charger (portable chargers are encouraged as well)
2. Backpacks and small bags (band duffie if you have one)
3. All concert attire accessories
4. Water bottle to refill throughout the trip (must be empty if in carry-on bag)
6. Toiletries
5. Warm clothes (be prepared to dress in layers)
6. Nice outfits for each day to wear in the convention center

Schedule

Always keep a copy of the itinerary with you or on your phone. Be punctual...to be early is to be on time. It is not fair to the rest of the group to wait for you. Failure to adhere to the itinerary will result in disciplinary action.

Security

Most of you will be carrying money and valuables. Be aware that these items can sometimes "disappear" at any time. Be smart...do not leave luggage, purses, cameras, bags, etc. in an unsecured area.

Respect and Authority of Adults

Directors, chaperones, hotel personnel, and park staff are to be treated with the utmost respect at all times. These adults are present to help you to have a fun and safe trip. They ARE NOT present to "wait on you." Be polite and respectful at all times. Please follow instructions the first time they are given.

Chaperone "check-in"

Each room will be assigned a chaperone. There will be times during the trip when you will be expected to check in with your assigned chaperone. Any indicated chaperone check-in is absolutely mandatory.

Relationships

Public Displays of Affection are strictly prohibited at all times, in all places, when traveling with the Vandegriff Band and Vision Dance Company. Repeated violations will be handled appropriately.

Groups

You must stay in groups of three or more throughout the duration of the trip. This includes the hotel property, meals, McCormick Place and Downtown Chicago. **NEVER** go off alone.

Citizenship

Remember that you are representing yourself, your family, Leander ISD, Vandegriff High School and the Vandegriff Band Program. Your behavior should reflect this...at all times. All future band trips depend upon what happens on this trip.

Illness

Please report to a chaperone quickly if you ever feel ill.

Medicine

If you take prescription medication, it must be kept with the assigned medical chaperone.

Sleep

This is a Performance Trip, and you must be well rested to perform well. When given the opportunity, it is crucial for you to get as much rest as possible. "Lights out" means just that.

Prescription Medication

If your student requires an adult to administer prescription medication, there will be a medication check-in on Tuesday evening 12-17 at 600pm. The medication will be collected and logged as you turn it in. Lori Hines will collect this and log it. Prescription medication will only be handled and dispersed by staff members and LISD approved medical chaperones.

Overnight Trip Rules – Midwest Clinic, Chicago, IL 2024

1. There will be no boys in girls' rooms or girls in boys' rooms for any reason, unless in the presence of a band director or chaperone. Any student violating this rule will be sent home at the expense of their parents.
2. Students will not be out of their rooms after curfew unless accompanied by an adult chaperone or designated school sponsor. Students will be given a chaperone's phone number to call in case of an emergency. Any student in violation of this policy will be sent home at the expense of their parents.
3. The possession or use of any tobacco product, alcohol product, chemicals, inhalants, intoxicants, electronic cigarettes or mood-altering drugs is strictly prohibited. Any student violating this policy will be sent home at the expense of their parents and referred to his/her campus administrator.
4. Any property damage will be paid for by the student(s) responsible for the damage.
5. Students are not to leave an assigned area for any reason or get into any vehicle other than school designated transportation or appropriate theme park shuttles.
6. Any student in violation of local, state, or federal laws will be turned over to law enforcement authorities. If the student returns to the group, he/she will be sent home at the expense of their parents.
7. Any student who excessively violates any trip guidelines may be sent home at the expense of their parents.
8. Students will follow all policies set forth in the Vandegriff High School Band Handbook.
9. If a student is sent home for any reason, the parent/guardian agrees to pay the full cost of the student's return trip to Austin. The parent/guardian will provide appropriate information (credit card number, etc.) to school district personnel in order that appropriate return transportation may be purchased.
10. Violation of any of these rules may result in permanent removal from the Vandegriff Band Program.

Hotel Guidelines

1. Keep your room neat and clean at all times
2. No movies/room service will be available
3. Chaperones can and will enter rooms at any time for inspections
4. Any suspicious activity will be investigated immediately
5. Curfew will be strictly enforced
6. The hotel will have many other guests...be courteous and quiet when not in your room
7. Never congregate in the halls

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Itinerary

Wednesday, December 18th

7:30 AM – Arrive at **Austin Airport**

- 3600 Presidential Blvd, Austin, TX 78719
- Meet at United ticket counter (Door F)
- Check bags and head to gate
- PAT Host to help with tickets

10:00 AM - Flight departs for Chicago (ORD)

- United Flight #1577

12:45 PM - Flight arrives in **Chicago O'Hare Airport (ORD)**

- 10000 W Balmoral Ave, Chicago, IL 60666
- Lunch on own in Airport

2:15 PM - Bus Spot Time

2:30 PM - Load bus

2:45 PM - Depart for **Embassy Suites Downtown River North**

- 600 N State Street, Chicago, IL 60654
- 45 min; 27 miles

3:30 PM - Arrive at **Embassy Suites Downtown River North**

- Check in and change for dinner and Les Miserables

4:15 PM - Load Bus

4:30 PM - Depart for **Giordano's Gold Coast/Mag Mile**

- 730 N Rush St, Chicago, IL 60611
- 3 min; .3 miles

4:35 PM - Arrive at **Giordano's Gold Coast/Mag Mile**

4:45 PM - Dinner begins

6:15 PM - Dinner ends - load buses

6:20 PM - Depart for **Cadillac Palace Theatre**

- 151 W Randolph St, Chicago, IL 60601
- 8 min; 1.4 miles

6:30 PM - Arrive at **Cadillac Palace Theatre**

7:00 PM - Les Miserables Begins (2 hrs 50 min)

10:00 PM - Load bus

10:15 PM - Depart for **Embassy Suites Downtown River North**

- 600 N State Street, Chicago, IL 60654
- 6 min; 1.1 miles

10:30 PM - Arrive at **Embassy Suites Downtown River North**

11:00 PM - Room check

11:30 PM - Lights out

Thursday, December 19th

8:00 AM - Breakfast at Hotel

9:00 AM - Load bus

- Bring everything you need for the entire day...
- including rehearsal tonight!!

9:15 AM - Depart for **McCormick Place**

- 2310 E Cermak Rd, Chicago, IL 60616
- Westfield Gate 41
- 15 min; 6.6 miles

9:30 AM - Arrive at **McCormick Place**

- Visit Exhibit Hall (hours 9:00am-5:00pm)
- Welcome to attend concerts - must stay in McCormick Place

12:00 PM - Load bus

12:15 PM - Depart for **Museum of Science and Industry**

- 5700 S DuSable Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60637
- 11 min; 5.4 miles

12:30 PM - Arrive at **Museum of Science and Industry**

- Pick up tickets upon arrival
- Self Guided Tour of MUSI
- Lunch on own at MUSI

3:15 PM - Load bus

3:30 PM - Depart for **Willis Tower Skydeck**

- 233 S. Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL 60606
- 16 min; 9.1 miles

3:45 PM - Arrive at **Willis Tower Skydeck**

4:00 PM - Willis Tower Ticket reservation for Skydeck

- Pick Up Tickets at Will Call

5:30 PM - Load Bus

5:45 PM - Depart for **Portillo's Chicago Canal and Taylor**

- 520 W Taylor St, Chicago, IL 60607
- 13 min; 3.7 miles

6:00 PM - Arrive at **Portillo's & Barnelli's Chicago**

- Enjoy dinner on your own

7:15 PM - Load bus

7:30 PM - Depart for **McCormick Place**

- 2310 E Cermak Rd, Chicago, IL 60616
- Westfield Gate 41
- 9 min; 3.5 miles

7:45 PM - Arrive at **McCormick Place**

8:45 PM - Rehearsal Begins in W470AB

10:15 PM - Rehearsal Ends - instruments to homeroom

10:45 PM - Load bus

11:00 PM - Depart for **Embassy Suites Downtown River North**

- 600 N State Street, Chicago, IL 60654
- 15 min; 6.6 miles

11:15 PM - Arrive at **Embassy Suites Downtown River North**

11:45 PM - Room check

12:15 AM - Lights out

Friday, December 20th

8:00 AM - Breakfast at Hotel (6:30am-9:30am)

9:00 AM - Walk to **Mag Mile** (Optional or stay at hotel)

- Groups of 4
- 8 min; .3 miles

10:00 AM - Return to hotel

10:30 AM - Check out of hotel

10:45 AM - Load bus

11:15 AM - Depart for **McCormick Place**

- 2310 E Cermak Rd, Chicago, IL 60616
- Westfield Gate 41
- 15 min; 6.6 miles

11:30 AM - Arrive at McCormick Place

- Lunch on own

12:15 PM - Report to homeroom W177 to gather instruments

- Clear out homeroom and bring everything to

12:45 PM - Sound check begins

1:30 PM - Group photo

1:45 PM - Sound check ends

2:00 PM - Performance begins in W184

3:00 PM - Performance ends

- Load truck - clean out homeroom

4:00 PM - Homeroom check out

4:15 PM - Load bus

4:30 PM - Depart for **Chicago O'Hare Airport (ORD)**

- 10000 W Balmoral Ave, Chicago, IL 60666
- 35 min; 19.4 miles

5:00 PM - Arrive at **Chicago O'Hare Airport**

- Check bags and head to gate
- Dinner on own

8:10 PM - Flight departs for Austin

- United Flight #457

11:12 PM - Flight lands in Austin