



**Grade 7 & 8 Music Field Trip Options:
Overnight to Vancouver, April 10; or Special Day for Grade 8's, April 12, 2024**

Monday, January 15, 2024

Dear Family:

A field trip is being proposed for music students in grade 7 & 8 to happen in April, 2024 to give students an opportunity to travel, and to celebrate their achievements in music. This letter contains information to help you decide whether to participate.

Q: What are the choices?

A: We are asking families to choose between two options: an overnight trip to Vancouver on Wednesday, April 10th; or a special night out for grade 8's only on Friday, April 12th. If there is insufficient interest in doing either option, there will not be a year-end music trip, but we will certainly celebrate students in concert and in class.

Q: What are the details of each option?

A:

Overnight Option: Vancouver, Wednesday April 10th, for Grade 7's and 8's, offered once every 2 years \$350

We will travel by a chartered coach bus to the 9:00am ferry to Tsawwassen on Wednesday, April 10th. We would participate in a music workshop for all students that morning, then eat a bagged lunch from home. The afternoon will involve some sightseeing in Vancouver including Stanley Park and Granville Island, followed by dinner at Old Spaghetti Factory. There would be an evening physical activity (swimming or similar) before returning to the hotel (Econolodge, located in North Vancouver.)

The next day we would take the gondola up Grouse Mountain and participate in a full day of First Nations and environmental education activities, which include snowshoeing or team-building, an art activity, a traditional lunch of vegetable soup, Bannock, salmon candy, and hot chocolate. After the program, we would stop briefly at Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge before catching the 5pm ferry back to Swartz Bay. Dinner that evening is included and purchased on the ferry.

One-Day Option: Afternoon Event and Dinner Out, Friday, April 12th, for Grade 8's ONLY \$25



This option would be an afternoon field trip for Grade 8's only to participate in a couple of fun activities, and to have a nice dinner together at Old Spaghetti Factory. Please note that transportation (i.e. a bus) would NOT be provided for this field trip. Students would travel by public transit, or driven by parent volunteers.

Q: Who will chaperone these trips?

A: For a trip to Vancouver, we would need two female parents and one male parent to attend, in addition to Ms. McDonell and Mr. Maxwell. It is extremely helpful to have staff attend, so priority will be given to any staff who can join us, and we are expecting to bring parents as well. If you are interested in chaperoning, please get in touch with Ms. McDonell at rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca.

Q: What are the sleeping arrangements for an overnight trip to Vancouver?

A: We will be staying the Econolodge in North Vancouver. Students will be sleeping in rooms with 4 students per room, sharing two queen-sized beds. Students and parents will have an opportunity to request who they will be rooming with, and school staff will make sure the groupings are fair and no one feels excluded. Chaperones will be in separate rooms, but students will know where their supervising adult is and will be able to reach them at any time by phone. Students will not be allowed free time in the hotel, or to leave their rooms in the evening for any reason. They will, however, make their own way downstairs in the morning to find breakfast.

Q: Can you accommodate my food allergies, health, and dietary concerns?

A: Most likely, yes. Once we know who is attending this trip, participating families will be asked to complete a health information form where you can detail this information and discuss any concerns with us.

Q: Will there be fundraising to help pay for this trip?

A: This trip is already generously subsidized for each student by the pizza sales fundraiser. If parents are interested in organizing further fundraisers for students, please get in touch with Ms. McDonell or Mr. Maxwell. No child will be denied the opportunity to participate due to financial restrictions. If your child is not able to participate due to the cost, please contact Mr. Maxwell at amaxwell@sd61.bc.ca. As has been said, if too few families are in support for an overnight trip to make it feasible, a one-day option is proposed instead.

Q: When are payments due for this trip and how do I pay them?



Rockheights MIDDLE SCHOOL music

1250 Highrock Ave. Esquimalt, BC V9A 4V7 Ph: (250) 384-7124 www.rockheightsmusic.com

A:

Monday, January 29th: \$25 deposit due to participate in either trip option.

Friday, February 16th: \$325 balance due to participate in the overnight option.

Families are asked to **pay these using School Cash Online or by cheque**. Please do not send cash.

Q: *What if we change our minds later, can we get a refund?*

A: Possibly. Paying this deposit is *your commitment* to attending the trip. The costs for this trip are based on the number of families who have made a commitment – backing out later will raise costs for everyone. For that reason, **the \$25 deposit is non-refundable, unless the trip is entirely cancelled**. If you have paid, but cannot attend the trip for any reason, including illness, we will wait until after the trip, once all costs are reconciled, to determine if any partial or full refunds can be given.

Q: *I have other concerns, which are not addressed here. How can I reach you?*

A: We are happy to answer any questions you have about the trip. Please email Ms. McDonell at rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca if you need more information. Please note that all letters and documents, with all the pertinent information, will also be posted to www.rockheightsmusic.com.

Q: *We've decided. How do we let you know?*

A: Please let us know your decision by Monday, January 29th by doing the following:

- 1. Complete the attached form** by ranking your choices, and return it to the school, **or complete the survey which was emailed home to parents**. Please complete the form, *even if you have decided not to participate*, so that your decision can be counted.
- 2. Make a deposit payment of \$25 either by cheque or through School Cash Online.** Please do not send cash.

If there is insufficient interest from families in participating in either of these options, there will not be a trip this year, and we can reconsider a trip next year. We will of course always celebrate the year-end with concerts and in-class celebrations. If you have questions or concerns, please review the information at www.rockheightsmusic.com, or contact me by email at rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca.

Warmly, Risa McDonell,



Music Teacher, Rockheights Middle School

Grade 7 & 8 Music Field Trip Options
Return this form, and the \$25 deposit, by Monday, January 29th

Please PRINT CAREFULLY

Student's Name: _____

Student's Division: _____

Parents: Name(s): _____

Please RANK THE FOLLOWING CHOICES

(1 being your first choice, and 2 being your 2nd choice. *Your choices will be kept confidential*)

Rank: **Overnight Option: Trip to Vancouver, April 10, for Grade 7 & 8 for \$350**
(please note, this option will only happen once very two years, not every year.)
\$25 non-refundable deposit due by Monday, January 29th
\$320 balance is due on Friday, February 16th

Rank: **One Day Option: Special Afternoon, Evening and Dinner, April 12, for Grade 8's Only for \$25**
\$25 non-refundable payment is due by Monday, January 29th

Please also check the following boxes:

If the overnight trip to Vancouver does not happen, we would still like our child to do the special-day-for-Grade-8's option.

If the overnight trip to Vancouver does not happen, our child would NOT participate in the special-day-for-Grade-8's option.

We are NOT participating in either field trip option.