

## **ZHS and ERHS Bands - Hawaii Band Trip 2021**

**What is this all about?** Zimmerman HS and Elk River HS are combining their band programs to create a very unique opportunity for students to travel and perform in Hawaii next year. The purpose of this trip is to give students a chance to perform and tour an exotic location in a format that will make this opportunity more affordable than individually possible, and bring together students in a very unique musical experience. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will have a positive influence on these kids for their rest of their lives.

**When is this tour?** We will travel over Spring/Easter break in April of 2021 (Easter is April 4th, 2021). This will give the students maximum opportunity to save for the trip and spread the payments out over an extended period of time to make it more affordable and manageable for as many families as possible. This will involve missing up to 3 days of school as allowed by the school in the days leading up to and after Spring Break.

**Who can go on the tour?** All current 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders who are enrolled in our school band programs throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

**Is this a performing tour? Are we going to play concerts?** YES! One of the major outcomes of providing this trip is to give students a chance to perform as a part of their travels. This is a very rewarding experience to perform for local audiences in a unique, memorable performance, while travelling in their area. Students from both high schools will combine to form a performing ensemble unique in our school district and will rehearse together beginning in the fall of 2020. We will have 5 rehearsals to prepare music for the trip alternating between ZHS and ERHS. The rehearsal schedule is included below and all students must agree to be at all rehearsals and fully participate, this is very important!

**How are payments made for the trip, when will they be due? What about fundraising?** All students will adhere to a payment schedule of regular deposits spread out over the next 14 months to make affording the trip more manageable. A payment calendar is included with payments due quarterly. Fundraising will be offered. Students should plan on paying for the trip outright and use available fundraising as a way to supplement their payments. Payment schedule is included below.

**What about chaperones?** We will not establish chaperon's until after we have students signed on to the trip and more of the details ironed-out. However, we will adhere to a 1-10 ratio of students to chaperon's. Who will chaperon will be decided by an application process at a later date, information will be forthcoming. Any adult interested in becoming a chaperon should first sign-up as a companion, and indicate on the companion application your interest. All chaperon's who will eventually be chosen will be required to function as a parent steering committee and participate in all the meetings, volunteer for fundraising activities leading up to the tour, as well as chaperoning on the tour itself. They will be a major part of the team that puts this tour together and will be expected to function as such.

**How much will this trip cost?** Our best good faith estimate at this time is \$2,750.00 based on today's economy and current price bids. This price may change up or down in the next year but will remain relative to this estimate. A final

confirmed price will be established by the Fall of 2020. The total number of students travelling and the final details of our proposed itinerary will have an affect on the price of the trip – the more kids going the cheaper it gets. We have to have a minimum of 50 students committed to the tour by our February 13th deadline to even make the trip possible. Less than that and the tour will have to be cancelled and other options sought. Although this seems like a lot of money at first sight, the discounted buying power of a group this size, and the business contacts established by our travel agent, make this the most affordable way to travel; you would not likely be able to replicate this opportunity on your own for this cost.

**Are their other costs involved?** All the major parts of the trip are included but there are other personal costs that differ with each student. Each student will be responsible for their own personal costs on the trip such as souvenirs, meals not included in the itinerary, snacks, sunscreen, etc. All of these details will be laid out for the students so they have a clear understanding of their obligations long ahead of time. Each family can make their own decisions about what kind of budget they will give their students to work with for spending money.

**I still have a lot more questions?** The informational meeting on Thurs., Jan. 23rd, is designed to answer all of your questions before you commit to this trip. We will have a short presentation and question and answer session that evening, plus, we will be available to personally answer any questions that we can. Email us with your questions and we will respond quickly, that is the best way to get a hold of us. This tour is in the very early planning stages and will proceed forward after we determine that there is enough student interest in the tour. The most important first step is to get the registration and deposit by Feb. 13th so we know how many students and companions, plus the make-up of the band, to move forward.

**How to sign up:**

**Step 1: Fill out the google form found on either band website (below).**

**Step 2: You will be given a code from the receipt after filling out that form. That code goes onto the the permission form that you will hand in. You will also be given a link that brings you to the tour payment website where you can make your initial deposit for the trip.**

**Step 3: Make your deposit on the tour payment website from the link you are given, you will create an Ohana account.**

**The initial deposit of \$250.00 will be due by Thursday, Feb. 13th, to secure a spot on the tour. After that the remaining balance will be divided into three equal payments due at the end of May, September, January, and final balance February 2021.**

**websites: ERBAND.ORG      ZIMMBAND.COM**

PLEASE WATCH THE INFORMATIONAL VIDEO THAT HAS BEEN EMAILED TO YOU FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DETAILS.

**Estimated cost of the trip is \$2,750.00 for students.** All payments must be made in your Ohana account thru Hawaii State Tours. You may pay ahead of schedule. Fundraising earnings will be applied periodically and will reduce your overall total due upon application. Companions will adhere to the same payment schedule; companions cost will vary according to the amount of people per room.

**--Payment schedule\*:**

1. \$250 Deposit: Thurs., Feb. 13th
2. \$650 payment: May 21st, 2020
3. \$650 payment: Sept. 20, 2020
4. \$650 payment: January 21st, 2021
5. Remaining balance\* (\$550.00 or adjusted amount to reflect any fundraising earnings): Feb., 20, 2021

*\*There is a 3% service charge if you use a credit card to create and pay your account. If you use a bank account, or you wish to pay the full balance all at once, that fee will not occur.*

## **Hawaii Tour 2021 rehearsal schedule**

**Fall mini-camp:**

Sunday, August 30th: rehearse 3-6pm, ZHS band room

Monday, August 31st: rehearse 6:00-8:30pm, ZHS band room

**Rehearsals:**

Sunday, February 28th - 2:00-5:00pm, ERHS bandroom

Sunday, March 14th - 2:00-5:00pm, ZHS bandroom - - PLUS final trip informational meeting at 5:00pm, Zimmerman Auditorium.

Sunday, March 28th - 1:00-3:00pm, ERHS bandroom - PLUS Farewell Concert at 3:00pm, Zabee Theatre \*(subject to change based on finalized departure date)

-----Pack instruments for trip immediately following concert.

Leave for Hawaii, Monday, March 29th --- return Monday, April 5th (*tentative dates, subject to change*).