

Dear Eighth Grade Parents and Students,

We are excited to announce the Dickerson Middle School Eighth Grade Chorus trip to New York City. We will participate in a Heritage Festival competition, enjoy the sights, cruise on the river, see a Broadway show, and more!

We will leave Dickerson the evening of **March 20** and return in the evening on **March 24**. Students will be excused from school on Thursday and Friday. Please read the following pages carefully, as you are responsible for knowing and understanding all policies, payment information, and expectations. **If your initial deposit and permission forms are not turned in by November 9, we will assume you have decided to NOT attend, no exceptions. If you are not paid by dates below, you will also be at risk of being removed from the trip.** You may pay in full as long as you have met the date requirements (you cannot decide to pay the entire payment in January). Make all checks payable to **Dickerson Middle School, show Ms. Guerra for the appropriate money envelope label.** Payments are also accepted online via the chorus website (MyPaymentsPlus).

ESTIMATED Total Trip Cost: \$815.00 which includes the following:

- i. Motor coach transportation to and from NYC and all local transportation; parking; tolls; driver tip
- ii. Hotel cost
- iii. Meals
- iv. Empire State building, Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty
- v. Broadway show, possibly two (TBD)
- vi. Saturday dinner cruise and dance party
- vii. Heritage Festival performance, adjudication, and awards ceremony
- viii. Two trip shirts

Students need their own spending money for snacks and souvenirs.

Chorus NYC Trip Payment Schedule

****You may combine payments/turn in more at once.****

November 9	\$100.00
November 16	\$150.00 *NO REFUNDS*
December 14	\$250.00 *NO REFUNDS*
January 18	ESTIMATED \$315.00 *NO REFUNDS*

All monies must be paid in full no later than January 18.

If you are interested in chaperoning this event, the cost for chaperones is also **\$815.00**, following the same payment timeline. To help us stay organized and to ensure everyone who is interested in chaperoning is considered, we have a chaperone interest form included with this packet. We are very excited to have so much interest. This level of parental support is one of the reasons our students and program can achieve such recognition!

This is NOT a required event – read all information carefully before returning the participation form. As we need a firm count to finalize pricing, it will be assumed that any student who does not return the form and payment will not be going on the trip. ***Forms with first payment are due by November 9th.***

Chorus Grade Requirement:

The chorus trip is not required and is a reward/celebration of three years of time dedicated to chorus. Because it is a music competition, students must be able to perform the required music level. **Students must maintain an average grade of 80% each nine weeks leading up to the trip.** If students fail to do so, they will not be eligible to attend this event.

Thank you,

Sonya Guerra

Proposed Trip Itinerary (*subject to change*)
2019 Eighth Grade Chorus New York City Trip

Depart: Wednesday, March 20 - evening

Return: Sunday, March 24 - afternoon

Wednesday, March 20

**Students will attend school as normal. **

5:00PM – Students meet at front of school with all belongings.

6:00PM – Depart Dickerson on motor coach for travel to NYC

Thursday, March 21

9:00AM – Est. arrival to Liberty State Park for ferry ride to Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island

1PM – Board bus for workshop

3:00PM – Workshop with Melvin Tunstell III at Ripley Grier Studio

5:00PM – Dinner

7:00PM – check into hotel

Friday, March 22

6:30AM – Wake-up call

Morning – Performance at Riverside Church

Early afternoon – Empire State Building

5:00PM – Dinner

8:00PM – Broadway show

10:45PM – Return to hotel

11:30PM – Room check, lights out!

Saturday, March 23

7:30AM – Wake-up call

8:30AM – Breakfast at hotel

9:30AM – Check out of hotel

Morning – activities around the city

2/3PM – possible second Broadway show

5:30PM – Load bus for Awards Ceremony

6:30PM – Awards Ceremony at Riverside Church

7:30PM – Depart for Dinner Cruise

10:45PM – Load bus and depart for home!

Sunday, March 24

breakfast en route

1:00PM – Anticipated return to Dickerson

Eighth Grade Trip Discipline System
"THREE OUTS"

With the Dickerson Middle School Eighth Grade Chorus anticipated trip to NYC in March, we will have a discipline system implemented to promote appropriate behavior. It is our feeling that students should always behave in a manner that represents the high expectations and achievements of Dickerson, but with such a big trip planned, we feel that a discipline system will encourage students to abide by all rules of the school and of their individual music classroom.

The name of the discipline system is "**Three Outs.**" Students can receive strikes and/or outs for various disciplinary infractions. As in baseball, three strikes are equivalent to an out and three outs disqualify a student from going on the trip. The system is not to eliminate people but to ensure that those students who do go on the trip are capable of behaving appropriately, demonstrating proper behavior in *any* situation, and will be marvelous representatives for our school, our community, and our state.

The following list has examples of behaviors that can incur strikes or outs. Please realize that this is a general list, and that *strikes and outs can be given at the discretion of the director or administrator.* ***Agenda marks given by any teacher in any class count as a strike.***

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>PENALTY</u>
Detention	1 strike
Gum, candy, or food during class	1 strike
Classroom disruption	1-3 strikes
Tardy to performance (unexcused)	1-3 strikes
Disrespect towards teachers	1-3 strikes
Lack of self-control towards others	1-3 strikes
Missed rehearsal (unexcused)	2 strikes
Misbehavior for a substitute teacher	2 strikes
Misbehavior for a chaperone	2 strikes
An office referral from director	1 out
Confrontation with student or teacher	1 out
In-School/Out-of-School Suspension	1 out
Missed Performance (unexcused)	2 outs

A student can be "struck out" by the director and/or administrator.

Once a student has received **TWO (2)** outs, parents or guardians will be notified. At this point, it is our wish that parents help their child not attain a third out. Please read this carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email at:

(770) 578-2710

sonya.guerra@cobbk12.org

Please return the paper (at the end of the packet) indicating you have read and understand the discipline and payment plan for the trip as well as the fact that all money paid is non-refundable.

CHAPERONES

We consider chaperones to be both an extension of Dickerson staff and the moms and dads away from home.

We will rely heavily on our chaperones to assist in the safety, well-being, and punctuality of our students.

Chaperone cost is the same as student cost. Chaperones will be paired as roommates, 2 per hotel room. We sincerely appreciate the help we receive from our chaperones. We also know that there is a significant financial commitment. We want to clearly communicate what is expected of chaperones before you commit to serving.

Please look over the guidelines below. If you are interested in being a chaperone, return the form and we will be in touch! Thank you so much for your dedication.

Dickerson Chaperone Guidelines

1. During the trip, you will be asked to help supervise as a team in large group settings. At other times, you will be responsible for specifically assigned small groups of students.
2. Chaperones need to spread out on the bus. (Directors up front, chaperones in front, middle and back)
3. When buses stop, all students are to remain in their seats until instructions are given.
4. During any announcements, help keep students quiet.
5. Roll will be taken every time we board the bus.
6. At curfew, chaperones should check all rooms and make sure that all students are in their room. Except for an emergency, students are not allowed out of the room again, until breakfast. No vending or ice after curfew. Be prepared for duties after lights out.
7. If there are any behavior problems with students, immediately bring this to the attention of a director.
8. Chaperones need to give a wake-up call to their assigned rooms at the given time. This also means following up by popping your head into the room to make sure they are actually out of bed!
9. During any group activity, chaperones should spread out among the kids to provide adequate supervision.
10. Program the cell phone numbers of your group of students in your phones and give them yours.
11. Upon departure from the hotel, please check all rooms for damage or personal items.
12. Chaperones need to refrain from alcohol for the entire duration of the trip. This includes the hotel room.

If you would like to chaperone on this trip, please respond on the agreement form. *Please be aware there is limited space for chaperones, so it will be first come, first serve if there are more interested people than what we have room for on the bus.*

Dickerson Eighth Grade Chorus

New York City 2019

I have read and understand the discipline and payment plan for the Eighth Grade Chorus trip, and that **all money is non-refundable after November 16**. I understand that my child must be in good academic and behavioral standing to participate, and I agree to the conditions for participation in this trip as stated in the information packet. If I violate a district policy, I may be removed from the trip and sent home at the expense of my parents.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Shirt Size (circle; all adult sizes): Sm. Med. Large XL XXL

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent's E-mail Address: _____

Best phone for contact: _____

POTENTIAL CHAPERONE INFORMATION: (Only fill out the following if you want to be considered as a chaperone)

First and Last Name: _____

Shirt Size (circle; all adult sizes): Sm. Med. Large XL XXL

Best Email to Contact You: _____

Best Phone Number to Contact You: _____

Please list any prior experience chaperoning groups of students/additional info: