

Branson Trip Information

As you probably know by now, the 8th grade band will be taking a one-day trip to Branson at the end of this school year. The students will be participating in the Heartland Music Festival in Hollister, MO as well as spending the rest of the day at Silver Dollar City in Branson.

What is the Heartland Music Festival?

The Heartland Music Festival is a music contest with junior high or high school bands, orchestras, or choirs competing from several states. The contest will take place at a venue near Silver Dollar City.

When is the trip?

The trip will take place on **Saturday, May 3rd**. Students will be at the middle school band room by 5 AM and be home at 10:30 PM. We will have more specifics after we get the itinerary from the contest.

Who will attend?

Because we are performing in a contest, all eighth grade band students are expected to attend. We will also be looking for parent chaperones for the trip. If you are interested in attending, please indicate on the form at the end of this letter.

What is the cost?

The cost of the trip per student is \$100 and the cost for chaperones will be \$75 if you do not have a season pass. This covers the cost of three charter buses, festival fees, park entrance, lunch in the park, and dinner on the bus. If you do have a season pass, the cost for students and chaperones is \$20. The cost of the entire trip is due no later than **Wednesday, April 23rd**.

Payments may be made online through inTouch online (through the parent's PowerSchool account), through a check made out to Jenks Band, or through cash in an envelope.

As a final push to help students obtain the full amount of funds, I have also provided a "Jenks 8th Grade Band Financial Sponsor" form. Students can simply ask family, friends, and relatives if they would like to help sponsor them for the Heartland Music Festival trip by making a donation to the Jenks Band program. Money should be collected at the time of sponsorship, and students may use those funds as payment for their trip. There is not a due date for this sponsor form. Checks should be made out to Jenks Band.

Are student trip monies refundable?

No. According to the Trip Fund Policy, *“all funds disbursed from the trip fund shall be considered non-refundable unless the Director of Instrumental Music cancels the trip and a refund is available and received from the provider of the contracted service.”* All students are expected to attend the trip. Dropped enrollment, academic ineligibility, or disciplinary restrictions as determined by the middle school administration are not valid reasons for non-payment or refund of payment for trip expenses. According to the Jenks Student Handbook, students who do not meet their financial obligations will have their name placed “on hold” as outlined in the Handbook.

How do parents become chaperones?

We would love for you to chaperone this trip! Please simply fill out the form at the bottom of this letter to indicate that you are interested in chaperoning. I will need to know the names of chaperones by **Wednesday, April 23rd**. Because of limited space on the buses, we may need some chaperones to drive themselves. In addition, I will be looking for one chaperone who would be willing to pick up Chick-Fil-A sandwiches for us a few miles from the park. Please let me know on the form what your preference is regarding riding or driving.

All families (regardless of chaperoning),
please fill out this form no later than

Wednesday April 23, 2025

<https://forms.gle/MyoLGuA83hX6K8NP9>



