

## 2008 Hawaii Tour Q & A Guide



*This guide is intended to answer general questions concerning The Jefferson Band's upcoming trip to Hawaii. Information with specifics including detailed itinerary, hotel, phone numbers, activities, etc, will be provided next school year.*



### **Q: Why is the band traveling to Hawaii?**

A: The Jefferson Band Program has a rich tradition of travel. They have performed for tens of millions of people on national television and in person in the Tournament of Roses, Orange Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Pan Pacific and Citrus Bowl parades. This year the Band of Blue has been invited to perform on the island of O'ahu in Hawaii! Additionally there are educational units planned for students including geology, marine biology and Pearl Harbor study.

### **Q: Who is eligible to travel with the Band of Blue to Hawaii?**

A: Jefferson students in grades 9-12 during the 2007-2008 school year enrolled in band who are in good standing are invited travel to Hawaii with the Band of Blue.

### **Q: What does "in good standing" mean?**

A: Students who have demonstrated behaviors representative of the Jefferson Band Program are in good standing.

### **Q: What are the dates for the tour?**

A: Spring Break 2008 (March 29 – April 5, 2008)

### **Q. How much does the trip cost?**

A: The price of the trip for students is has yet to be determined. To be announced soon.

### **Q: What is included?**

A: The following is included in the tour. (Specifics will be provided next school year).

- Airfare to Honolulu
- Transfers via deluxe air-conditioned coach
- Hotel
- Daily Breakfasts
- Additional meals to be determined
- Performances
- Activities such as (specifics to be determined later)
  - Pearl Harbor Tour
  - USS Missouri Tour and Performance
  - USS Bowfin Tour
  - Admission to Polynesian Cultural Center, including IMAX
  - Sunset DJ Cruise
  - Snorkeling excursion

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- Diamond Head excursion
- North Shore excursion
- Luau
- Hilo Hatties and International Marketplace Shopping excursion
- Nuuanu Pali Lookout excursion

### **Q: What is not included?**

A: Some meals and spending money for souvenirs. Specific details concerning how much spending money to take will be addressed at the required pre-trip parent meeting next year.

### **Q: Who will supervise the students while we are on tour?**

A: The Band of Blue is well supervised when they travel. Last year when the band performed in the Citrus Bowl Parade a large staff of Cedar Rapids Community School administrators and teachers supervised the students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additional parent chaperones assists school staff.

### **Q: Where will we stay?**

A: The band will stay on or near Waikiki Beach on the island of O'ahu. Hotel specifics will be announced later.

### **Q: How do I pay for the tour?**

A: Each student is responsible for funding his or her own trip. There are many fundraising opportunities for students. Many fundraisers are already scheduled including (2) Century Recourses brochure sales, (2) PartyTime frozen food sales, working at Kernel's games, (2) Fruit sales, and candy sales. Additional events are being planned as well. Students will have opportunities to pay the entire cost of the tour through fundraising. Those students who do not choose to fundraise the entire cost of the trip will be required to pay the difference.

### **Q: What is the payment schedule?**

A: A non-refundable deposit will be required when you decide to sign up for the trip. A payment schedule will be provided, typically with payments due every other month. Again, specifics will be provided when the price of the trip has been determined.

### **Q: How do I make payments?**

A: Every band student will have an account that is maintained by Jefferson's bookkeeper. Once a student and their parent sign the Hawaii Tour contract/permission form their account will be charged. Payments must be made to Jefferson by CHECK, VISA or money order. Please include student's name on memo line of check. Payments can be mailed to Jefferson: Jefferson Bookkeeper: Hawaii / Jefferson High School / 1243 20<sup>th</sup> Street SW / Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Payments can also be made directly to the bookkeeper's office located across from the main office. Please use Jefferson Band Deposit envelopes available from Mrs. Thomas, the music secretary, or from a band director. Please understand that Jefferson's Bookkeeper must manage the "normal" businesses of the school (1600+ students) in addition to the 500+ Hawaii accounts. The more information you provide to the bookkeeper in writing the better. The same applies to the band directors. ***The band office does not accept cash – only checks or money orders made to Jefferson Bands with student's name on memo line and completely fill out Band Deposit Envelope.***

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### **Q: How are profits from fundraisers deposited to student's accounts?**

A: Profits from all fundraisers are automatically applied to student's accounts.

### **Q: What about parents who want to travel to Hawaii with the band?**

A: Parents are welcome to travel as one of two groups described below. If you are interested in traveling with the band, please read each of the descriptions carefully to determine which choice is best for you.

#### **Chaperones**

This option is for those parents who have a desire to be with the students 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Chaperones are expected to follow the same rules as the kids (no smoking, drinking, swearing, be on time, etc). In addition, Chaperones are asked to help with monitoring students on the plane, bus, at the hotel, at events, etc. Additionally, these parents help with night hall duty. Chaperones will stay in the same hotel as the kids and pay the same price as the students (please note that double occupancy is higher than quads). Parents that interact well with groups of teenagers are best as chaperones.

#### **Followers**

This option is for those parents that want to travel to Hawaii with the band, attend the same functions as the band, but stay in a different hotel and have no responsibilities. Many parents make vacations out of their child's trip this way. Parents stay at a little nicer hotel very close to the kids and do *everything* the students do (except practice). They do not have duties or responsibilities. The Follower's cost is higher than Chaperone's.

### **Q: How much does the CHAPERONE tour cost?**

A: Chaperones pay the same price as students based on number of people per room. To be announced soon.

### **Q: How much does the FOLLOWERS tour cost?**

A: Followers costs will be higher than the student/chaperone cost. To be announced soon.

### **Q: What about parents that want to make their own arrangements to travel to Hawaii?**

A: There are always some parents who make their own air and hotel arrangements. This is no problem except that we often have events that are contracted solely for the group. While we attempt to accommodate individuals who make their own arrangements, it is often impossible to provide people outside of the group with admission to group activities.

### **Q: Is there a LAND ONLY package available for parents?**

A: Yes. Parents can arrange their own transportation to Hawaii and join the Band of Blue when they arrive. LAND ONLY packages include everything in the normal packages, less air transportation and transfers to and from the airport. Deviations, substitutions or alterations to the package are not available through Jefferson. The costs for Land Only will be available soon. The Land Only option is for available for parents only, not for students.

### **Q: How much does the LAND ONLY tour cost?**

A: LAND ONLY costs will be determined soon. To be announced soon.

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**Q: What if a parent wants to extend their family vacation after the band's tour?**

A: Some parents might want to extend their stay their stay in Hawaii including other islands. There may be options for those parents. Details will be available later in the spring.

**Q: What is the current status of the flights?**

A: At this point the tour is based on commercial air from Chicago. We will bus to and from Cedar Rapids and Chicago.

**Q: How do I sign up?**

A: As soon as the costs are finalized and then announced, a tour contract/permission form will be provided. This will include specifics including costs and payment schedule. After your family has had a serious discussion about the trip, parents and students will sign the form and return with the non-refundable deposit.

**Q: Can I sign up for the trip then “drop out” later?**

A: NO! Families must understand that signing this document means that they will participate in the tour and accept all financial responsibilities. The tour contract is a very important document. The school must make arrangements based on the number of people who sign this document (secure air tickets, hotel rooms, activities, etc). It is critical that these numbers remain constant. **Please do not sign up for the trip and ask to drop out later.**

**Q: Questions?**

A: The best way to contact Mr. Houk is by email: [ahouk@cr.k12.ia.us](mailto:ahouk@cr.k12.ia.us). Office phone is 558-1393.