

Heart of America: Nashville Update (11/15)

These past few months have flown by and, although it's hard to believe, in less than 4 months we will be flying to Nashville! As we approach the trip, more of the details are taking shape. We now know that due to the size of our group (112 people), we will need to take two flights. Half of the group will fly on Southwest in the morning on Thursday, while the other half will fly on American in the evening. We also know that we will be seeing the touring production of Jesus Christ Superstar at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center (hopefully with a cast question and answer session!) on Friday evening. Most importantly, we know that the big competition will be taking place all day and night on Saturday. I have no doubts that this will be an unforgettable trip and I will do my best to continue adding experiences that fit within our financial budget and time restraints.

Speaking of finances, I need to again implore you to all participate in the fundraising process for this trip. To this day, we still have over 25 students who have not donated any funds at all...that alone would put us in a \$25,000 hole for the competition. Unfortunately, we are not funded by the district or any other outside entity and do not have the large amount of money needed to cover those costs. **If you are unable to donate anything out of pocket, our choir booster club has a number of sponsorship/fundraising opportunities to help with this endeavor.** Please contact them if you would like to learn more on the subject. We really do **NEED EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE** on this front to ensure that we are not forced to cancel future experiences to pay off any debt left behind by this trip. **The final scheduled collection day for Nashville funds was yesterday, so please bring in the remaining balance ASAP if you have not done so already.**

To all of our chaperones travelling with us, thank you for donating your time to support our students! We will be staying in the Gaylord Opryland Resort located in the heart of Nashville and your ticket to the competition (a \$60 value) is included if you are an official chaperone who booked with us. The resort looks phenomenal! It has a beautiful shopping center, lots of restaurants, a spa, an indoor/outdoor waterpark, an atrium with a waterfall, and more. We will not be lacking for things to do on our trip! In the coming months, room assignments, flight information, an itinerary, and chaperone duties will be sent out. Thank you for being a part of our trip!

We will continue planning more of the details and raising funds for this trip in the coming months. It's our goal to offer as many wonderful opportunities and experiences for our students as we possibly can. Obviously, this is only possible through your dedication to raising the funds that allow us to move forward with them. Thank you for your consistent efforts toward that goal. ☺

Sincerely,

Alex Willert
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