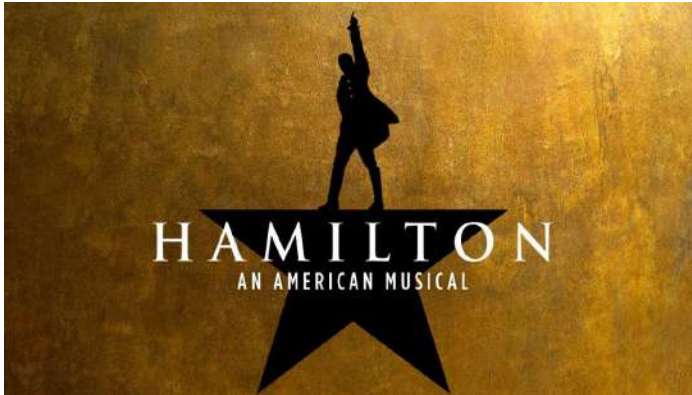


# Pelican Rapids High School

## 2025 Band Trip



# New York City

March 23-30, 2025

10-12th Grade Band Parent Introductory Information Packet

We are pleased to announce that Pelican Rapids High School will be offering a trip to New York City in the spring of 2025 to those students currently in band and in grades 10-12. The band generally travels every three years, offering each student in grades 10-12 one chance to take a major trip to New York City with the band.

We are doing an incredible amount of things, all of which have educational and artistic merit, and will also be very enjoyable and memorable for the students.

One of the reasons the band does not travel more often is to give each student the maximum amount of time to raise the necessary money. To insure the highest quality of musical performance possible, we need nearly everyone to attend. If we do not get a vast majority of students to participate, we will not have a balanced band and therefore cannot take the trip. The final decision will be made after all commitment statements are returned.

The trip will be by airplane and motorcoach, last 6 days and 5 nights, and take place March 23-30, 2025. The full cost of the trip will be \$2596 per student minus whatever the student has fund-raised. See the payment form to see how the payments are spread across a good amount of time to hopefully make this more feasible for families. If the payment schedule does not work for you, an alternate payment plan can be created.

## Fund Raising

Each student has an individual music account. All the money raised for either band or choir goes into this account. This is the same account you have been using since 7th grade, and many students have quite a bit saved up already. Money can easily be transferred from sibling to sibling if you'd like to use money that your younger or non-traveling child has raised. We have 2 general methods of raising money: Selling Club's Choice Frozen Food in the fall and the spring, and working at the concession stand during home games. We generate the most money with the concession stand, and we use that money to "pay" both the parent and student workers who work in the stand. Students and parents raise money per hour of work, directly into the student's account.

## Included

### Airfare

Round trip airfare out of Minneapolis is based on an estimate of \$668 per person. We don't have the exact price of airline tickets yet and have estimated high, so it will not cost more than this. If it is less, that cost will be subtracted from the total cost of the trip.

### Busing

Busing to and from Minneapolis from Pelican Rapids and bus travel in New York is included in the total cost.

### Hotel

La Quinta Inn and Suites-Clifton

5 Nights Hotel

### Meals

5 Breakfasts at hotel

2 Lunches: Ellen's Stardust and Little Italy

1 Dinner aboard the boat on the Evening Dinner Cruise

## General Information About What We Will See and Do

### **One World Trade Center and Observatory**

One World Trade Center, also known as the Freedom Tower, is the main building of the rebuilt World Trade Center complex in Lower Manhattan, New York City. One WTC is the tallest building in the United States, the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere, and the sixth-tallest in the world. The super tall structure has the same name as the North Tower of the original World Trade Center, which was destroyed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The new skyscraper stands on the northwest corner of the 16-acre World Trade Center site, on the site of the original 6 World Trade Center.

The building's architect is David Childs, who also designed the Burj Khalifa in Dubai and the Willis Tower in Chicago. The construction of below-ground utility relocations, footings, and foundations for the new building began on April 27, 2006. One World Trade Center became the tallest structure in New York City on April 30, 2012, when it

surpassed the height of the Empire State Building. On May 10, 2013, the final component of the skyscraper's spire was installed, making the building, including its spire, reach a total height of 1,776 feet. Its height in feet is a deliberate reference to the year when the United States Declaration of Independence was signed.

On March 26, 2009, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey confirmed that the building would be officially known by its legal name of "One World Trade Center", rather than its colloquial name of "Freedom Tower". The building is 104 standard floors high, but the tower has only 94 actual stories.

## **Rockefeller Center**

Rockefeller Center is an art deco marvel consisting of 19 commercial buildings covering 11 acres in midtown Manhattan with a sunken plaza for outdoor dining, ice skating in the famous rink in the winter, and an underground shopping center concourse. It is the home of the NBC building: 30 Rockefeller Plaza, or "30 Rock".

## **NBC Studios Tour**

Visit where some of today's most popular television shows are made, like Saturday Night Live, The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, Late Night with Seth Meyers, and The Kelly Clarkson Show. Also, get to see the headquarters for some of America's favorite news programming including TODAY, Nightly News with Lester Holt, MSNBC, and NBC News Now.

NBC Pages will guide you through the production process, from staging and directing, to the technologies that deliver content to your home.

NBC Studios are located in the historic 30 Rockefeller Plaza. The first NBC Radio City Studios began operating in the early 1930s. Because of the preponderance of radio studios, that section of the Rockefeller Center complex became known as Radio City (and gave its name to Radio City Music Hall). Even into the present decade, tickets for shows based at 30 Rock bear the legend "Radio City". The building houses the NBC television network headquarters.

## **St. Patrick's Cathedral**

The amazing and beautiful seat of the Roman Catholic archbishop of New York is an example of the decorated and geometric style of Gothic ecclesiastical architecture

which prevailed in Europe from 1275-1400. Students' first entrance into this magnificent and immense Cathedral is breathtaking and memorable.

### **9/11 Museum and St. Paul's Chapel**

Located directly across from the World Trade Center site, St. Paul's Chapel was home to an extraordinary eight month volunteer relief effort after the terrorist attacks. A memorial commemorating the tragic event is here. The 9/11 memorial is also here, with its weeping pools and commemorations of the day's tragic events. Experience below the ground, the 9/11 Memorial Museum. "Never forget" was the heartfelt refrain after the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. The National September 11 Memorial Museum is dedicated to those who lost their lives, and to ensure, once again, that the world will "never forget."

### **Times Square**

Times Square is the site of the annual New Year's Eve ball drop. On December 31, 1907, a ball signifying New Year's Day was first dropped at Times Square, and the Square has held the main New Year's celebration in New York City ever since. The theaters of Broadway and the huge number of animated neon and LED signs have long made them one of New York's iconic images, and a symbol of the intensely urban aspects of Manhattan. Times Square is the only neighborhood with zoning ordinances requiring building owners to display brightly illuminated signs. The density of illuminated signs in Times Square now rivals that of Las Vegas. Officially, signs in Times Square are called "spectaculars", and the largest of them are called "jumbotrons." Experience the bright lights of the big city and find out first hand why it has been dubbed "The Great White Way". We will get a formal, professional picture of the band near the red steps here. Times Square serves as a central location to much of what we will do in NYC.

### **Central Park**

This idyllic haven is the city's most cinematic public playground, a status born out of use as a backdrop for countless films, television shows, ad campaigns and photo shoots. Central Park is a large public, urban park that occupies over a square mile in the heart of Manhattan. It is host to approximately twenty five million visitors each year.

## **Fifth Avenue**

Fifth Avenue is a major thoroughfare in the center of the borough of Manhattan and is one of the premier shopping streets in the world. Fifth Avenue serves as a symbol of wealthy New York and is consistently ranked as one of the most expensive streets in the world.

## **Evening Dinner Cruise**

Here we will board a dinner boat which will take us on a guided tour of the city via its surrounding rivers, the East and the Hudson. The trip will take you under the major bridges and out to the Statue of Liberty for some great photo opportunities, plus some great views of the city at night.

## **The Statue of Liberty National Monument**

The Statue of Liberty (*Liberty Enlightening the World*) is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. The copper-clad statue, a gift to the United States from the people of France, was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and its metal framework was built by Gustave Eiffel. The statue was dedicated on October 28, 1886.

The statue is a figure of a classically draped woman, likely inspired by the Roman goddess of liberty Libertas. In a contrapposto pose, she holds a torch above her head with her right hand, and in her left hand carries a *tabula ansata* inscribed JULY IV MDCCLXXVI (July 4, 1776, in Roman numerals), the date of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. With her left foot she steps on a broken chain and shackle, commemorating the national abolition of slavery following the American Civil War. After its dedication the statue became an icon of freedom and of the United States, being subsequently seen as a symbol of welcome to immigrants arriving by sea.

We will travel to Liberty Island to visit this American icon via ferry.

## **Ellis Island**

Ellis Island is a federally owned island in New York Harbor, situated near Liberty Island. Ellis Island was once the busiest immigrant inspection and processing station in the United States. From 1892 to 1954, nearly 12 million immigrants arriving at the Port of

New York and New Jersey were processed there. It has been part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument since 1965 and is accessible to the public only by ferry.

You will have access to a database with documentation of all immigrants, and many find some ancestors entered the United States here.

### **Three Broadway Shows**

Really, the main reason we travel to New York is to see the greatest live musical theater in the world. Broadway theater, commonly called simply “Broadway”, is associated with the 40 large professional theaters with 500 seats or more located in the Theater District. Broadway theater is usually considered to represent the highest level of commercial theater in the English-speaking world. The shows we will see are Hamilton, Moulin Rouge, and Back to the Future. We will study these shows in depth, and play their music beforehand, so you will know and experience them with as much knowledge and understanding as possible.

### **One Off-Broadway Show**

An Off-Broadway theater is a professional venue in New York City with a seating capacity between 100 and 499. These theaters are smaller than Broadway theaters, but larger than Off-Off-Broadway theaters. Off-Broadway Shows themselves are usually much different than the more commercial Broadway shows. They usually contain material that is new, strange, avante-garde, experimental and very different. The small theaters allow the audience to get very close to the performers, and often even interact with them. The intimate Off-Broadway show we will see is Blue Man Group.

### **PRHS Band Performance in Trump Tower Atrium**

Trump Tower is a 58-story mixed-use skyscraper located on Fifth Avenue. Trump Tower serves as the headquarters for The Trump Organization and houses the primary penthouse condominium residence of Donald Trump and his family. We will perform a band concert in the indoor atrium of Trump Tower and eat lunch there. This is the atrium containing the famous “Donald Trump” escalator entrance.

### **Ellen’s Stardust Diner**

Ellen's Stardust Diner is a retro 1950s theme restaurant located in the Theater District. The Diner is regarded as one of the best theme restaurants in New York owing to its

incredibly talented singing wait staff. Many of them are “between jobs” Broadway performers or “up-and-coming” Broadway performers. Former Ellen's staff members have been known to star in almost every Broadway and major off-Broadway musical in New York.

### **Grand Central Station Terminal**

Grand Central Terminal, also referred to as Grand Central Station or simply as Grand Central, is a commuter, rapid transit railroad terminal in Midtown Manhattan. Built by and named for the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad in the heyday of American long-distance passenger rail travel, it covers 48 acres and has 44 underground levels, more than any other railroad station in the world. Its level platforms, all below ground, serve over 114 tracks. Grand Central Terminal has intricate designs both on its inside and outside. In addition, it contains a vast interior main concourse featured in many films.

### **Manhattan Bus Tour**

This tour travels through much of Manhattan, highlighting most of its famous neighborhoods and landmarks such as: Metropolitan Museum of Art, Empire State Building, Guggenheim Museum, American Museum of Natural History, Intrepid Aircraft Carrier and Museum, Flatiron Building, Chrysler Building, Radio City Music Hall, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium, Carnegie Hall, Federal Hall, The United Nations Headquarters, Metropolitan Opera House, New York Stock Exchange, SoHo, Greenwich Village, East Village, Chelsea, Wall Street, Tribeca, Upper West Side, Hell's Kitchen, Union Square, The Financial District, and others. We will also be traveling under the rivers surrounding Manhattan in tunnels such as the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels.

### **Brooklyn Bridge**

The Brooklyn Bridge is a hybrid cable-stayed/suspension bridge in New York City and is one of the oldest bridges of either type in the United States. Completed in 1883, it connects the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn by spanning the East River. It has a main span of 1,595.5 feet, was the first steel-wire suspension bridge constructed, and is probably the most recognized bridge in New York. Since its opening, it has become an icon of New York City and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964 and a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1972. We will walk across the Brooklyn Bridge together.



## **Broadway Up Closer Workshop**

A Broadway Up Close workshop is an opportunity for students to work with Broadway professionals in a one-on-one setting. The workshop is designed to provide a personal and intimate experience, and to show the human side of Broadway. We will meet and work with a member of the cast of one of the Broadway shows we will be seeing.

## **Chinatown**

Chinatown is a neighborhood in Lower Manhattan bordering the Lower East Side and Little Italy. Chinatown is home to the largest enclave of Chinese people in the Western Hemisphere. With an estimated population of 90,000 to 100,000 people, Manhattan's Chinatown is also one of the oldest Chinese ethnic enclaves. Chinese green grocers and fishmongers and jewelers are clustered around Mott Street, Mulberry Street, Canal Street and all along East Broadway. West of Broadway (especially on the North side), is filled with street vendors selling knock-off brands of perfumes, watches, handbags, and many other items. Here members of the band can learn to haggle, and successfully negotiate the price of a small purchase in Chinatown or Little Italy.

## **Little Italy**

Bordering Chinatown is Little Italy, although much smaller, with only 10,000 people in this neighborhood and a history full of mob bosses and crime intrigue. The band will meet the owner of a fine restaurant and dine together there on authentic Italian cuisine, with stories from anything like haggling tips to John Gotti or the Godfather films.

## **New York City High Line**

The High Line is a 1.45-mile-long elevated linear park, greenway and rail trail created on a former New York Central Railroad. The abandoned spur has been redesigned as a "living system" drawing from multiple disciplines which include landscape architecture, urban design, and ecology. Since opening in 2009, the High Line has become an icon of contemporary landscape architecture.

## **Parent Chaperones**

A trip of this size can only run successfully if some very decent and hard working parent chaperones are involved. If you would be interested in chaperoning the New

York trip with the band, please read the general chaperone responsibilities below. Then, turn in the chaperone interest form at the same time as the commitment form. We generally use an equal gender student/chaperone ratio of parents of students in each grade, 10-12. Once all student commitment forms are turned in, chaperones will be notified of their participation status. We always have a great deal of interest in this, but can only bring a few.

Perhaps the most important task a chaperone has is being able to maintain a positive, outgoing, and upbeat attitude during every moment of the trip, even though we will be entirely exhausted. The trip moves very fast, with an unbelievable amount of walking and less sleep than we definitely require. This can be an overwhelming job, and we need people who are positive throughout it all.

## Chaperone Responsibilities

The task of a chaperone is a busy and important one. Your main responsibility is to help the students have a comfortable, enjoyable, and safe trip. We will meet beforehand a few times to discuss these things, as well as other details about the trip, and give you some of the same educational information the kids receive beforehand.

Communicate with students constantly and make sure they understand all instructions. You may also wish to learn a bit more about what we will be seeing to help point out interesting things to the students.

Once checked in at the hotel, check to see your specific students are situated properly and comfortably. Report any rooming problems to the director. You will be in charge of 2 or 3 rooms and those students will be yours throughout the trip, even when we are not in the hotel. However, students are generally allowed to move about the city in small areas at a time in groups of 3 or more without chaperones, so you won't be directly with them during every moment of the trip.

Check rooms at curfew times and periodically after curfew. This is a good time to talk with your students about the day, any problems or things that may have come up, or really anything at all that the kids would like to discuss with you. Noise rules must be enforced, especially after hours. If any rule violations are suspected, we have the responsibility to enter the hotel room without exception. We will check all rooms,

closets, drawers, suitcases, anything the situation warrants. Chaperones, Mr. Fitzsimmons, PRHS administration, and tour directors will work together if this were to occur.

Other responsibilities are as follows. Chaperones assist with taking roll each time we get on the buses. Do not let the bus leave until this task is done. If a serious illness or misconduct occurs, it might require you to miss the day's activities. Check all rooms in the mornings to make sure all students are up and moving. Know the daily schedule and when and where students are to be at all times. Each evening at a specified time and place, chaperones will meet with the tour director to discuss the current and next day's activities, to sort out details, and to get detailed information to the students.

As you can see, the chaperones must stay up later and get up earlier than the students, who themselves will be very exhausted at times during this trip. It is far more excruciating than most people imagine and through it all, every minute, we must remain positive, upbeat, and be very proactive about encouraging that kind of attitude and behavior in the students. If this sounds like something you can and will do, please sign up to chaperone. Chaperones pay ½ price for the trip.

## A Final Note to Parents

Band trips are truly one of the greatest things for students and will provide them with endless experiences, relationships, and memories that will last a lifetime. These trips have an amazing impact on the growth of the students, and are something that they only have a single chance to do with the band. We hope you understand the value of this trip, and if it is at all financially possible, you encourage your son or daughter to attend. Remember, if the payment schedule does not work for you, let's work out an alternate, individual payment plan that will work.

Please call, text or email me either of us with questions or concerns.

Sean Fitzsimmons  
PRHS Director of Bands  
sfitzsim@vikes.us

Laura Januszewski  
PRHS Principal  
ljanuszewski@vikes.us

# PRHS New York Band Trip Payment Schedule and Important Dates

This is the payment schedule for the trip and other important dates. We will be using SchoolPay on the school website to make each payment. If this pay schedule does not work for you, and you would like to create an alternate payment plan, use the alternate payment plan form. If you fill out an alternate payment plan, turn this form in with the commitment form, and PRHS will contact you directly to discuss details about your plan.

Wed. October 16	Commitment Forms Due to Mrs. Januszewski Chaperone Interest Form Due to to Mrs. Januszewski Alternate Payment Plan Form Due to to Mrs. Januszewski
Thur. October 17	Official Trip Decision Announcement: whether trip will take place or not (depending on amount of positive commitments)
Wed. October 23	Deposit (nonrefundable) \$300
Wed. November 13	Payment 1 \$600
Fri. January 3	Payment 2 \$600
Wed. January 22	Payment 3 \$600
Fri. February 21	Payment 4 \$496

# CHAPERONE INTEREST STATEMENT FORM

We will use this form to find out which parents would be interested in being a chaperone on the New York band trip. Once all of these forms are turned in, we will select the appropriate chaperones according to the number of boys vs. girls signing up for the trip and the grade of your son or daughter (we can't have all chaperones be parents of 11th graders for instance - we need parents of each grade). Note that not all parents will be selected. Do not submit any money at this time. Once the chaperones are selected, a payment schedule will be created for you. Please turn this form in by Wednesday, Oct. 16.

If you would like to confirm that it was received, please email Mrs. Januszewski.

I, \_\_\_\_\_(name of parent or parents)

would be interested in being a chaperone on the March band trip to New York City.

Name of traveling son or daughter \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please turn in this form by Wednesday, Oct. 16 to Mrs Januszewski.**

# STUDENT COMMITMENT STATEMENT FORM

We will use this form to determine if we have enough students interested in taking the trip. If we do not have a vast majority, we will not go. Please turn this form in by Wednesday, Oct. 16. Once we decide if the trip is a go, the first payment will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 23 (see payment form).

I \_\_\_\_\_ (name of student) will be participating in the 2025 band trip to New York City

OR

I \_\_\_\_\_ (name of student) will not be participating in the 2025 band trip to New York City.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please turn in this form by Wednesday, Oct. 16 to Mrs Januszewski.**

# ALTERNATE PAYMENT PLAN FORM

## 2025 PRHS Band Trip to New York

Please turn this form in by Wednesday, Oct. 16:

Describe, in detail, your preferred payment plan. A total of \$2596 must be paid by Friday, Feb. 1 with a down payment to secure your spot. PRHS will contact you directly to discuss this plan further.

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Cell Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Parent email\_\_\_\_\_

**Please turn in this form by Wednesday, Oct. 16 to Mrs Januszewski.**