

## East Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Performing Arts Chicago Trip

May 4 – 6, 2016

This year's trip to Chicago is certain to provide lifelong memories. It is open to either grade, band, orchestra, choir, Encore, and theatre members. In addition to a clinic for each performing group, the trip will include motor coach transportation, two nights' hotel lodging, seven meals, visits to the Shedd Aquarium, the Museum of Science and Industry, Navy Pier, shopping on the Magnificent Mile, a "Blue Man Group" show and a "Comedy Sportz" show. It's great fun!

We will leave in the early afternoon on Wednesday, May 4, and return around 11:00 p.m. Friday, May 6. The cost will depend on the number of students and adults that sign up for the trip. If 161 or more sign up, the cost per student is \$412 (quad occupancy). We also need parents to join us on this fun-filled adventure as chaperones. Unfortunately, you have to pay! The cost for adult double occupancy (with at least 161 participants) is \$512. Chaperones from previous years have really enjoyed the trip. Please join us! Students, encourage your friends to go! The price will go up if we have fewer than 161. The amount may be paid in full or in three installments of \$137 each (last payment \$138), or \$171 each for adults (last payment \$170).

Brightspark Travel is the tour company arranging the trip. Registration is easy: just go to <https://mytour.brightsparktravel.com> and enter the **tour web code: 6507862**. It is important to sign up by this date in order for the trip to take place. Space will be filled on a first come, first served basis. The price is determined by the date/time Brightspark receives their first payment. Students are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible in order to secure a seat. You may pay in full or in installments. See the attached Brightspark letter for more information. If you prefer not to register online, see your teacher for an enrollment form to mail to Brightspark.

### **Student Eligibility Requirement**

The East Middle School performing arts department plans trips to provide musical and dramatic experiences for our students and to reward them for quality effort and performance throughout the year. Unexcused absences from required performances or rehearsals or inappropriate classroom and rehearsal behavior may be grounds for exclusion from the trip. (Please note: There may be an appeal process available prior to the trip.)

#### **Eligible Students Will:**

- Receive no more than a total of 3 "NI" (Needs Improvement) or "U" (Unsatisfactory) grades in citizenship on all progress reports and report cards in ALL classes. (when you receive your 4th "NI" and/or "U" you are no longer eligible to go.)
- Have no Level 2 behavior-related suspensions (in or out of school).
- Receive a passing grade in music/theatre class on his/her report cards.

This policy is important. It discourages inappropriate behavior and rewards suitable behavior. It forewarns students and parents that there are consequences for improper behavior by trip participants. If a student becomes ineligible to attend this trip, there is a possibility of lost monies. Purchasing the refund guarantee protection (RGP) for the trip can ensure that almost all money would be refunded.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us by email or at 248-489-3601. Looking forward to a fantastic trip!

Catherine Cordle  
Theatre

David Drake  
Band

Angel Gippert  
Choir/Encore

Caitlin Mihalko  
Orchestra

October 12, 2015

Exciting news for East MS 8th Grade Performing Arts Chicago Trip.

We're planning a fantastic tour to Chicago on May 4 - 6, 2016. This unforgettable learning experience of a lifetime is being coordinated by Brightspark Travel.

**All you need to know about Brightspark:**

- An accredited and insured operator who ensures safety and security above all
- Trusted and valued expertise, with over 45 years of experience
- This custom-made tour fits our unique group, interests, budget and more
- They'll handle every detail so you don't have to worry

**What will it cost?**

We've discussed our group's needs and secured these guaranteed rates:\*

<b>Student</b>	<b>\$412</b>	<b>+ \$44 RGP</b>	<b>Quad Occupancy</b>
<b>Paying Adult</b>	<b>\$512</b>	<b>+ \$44 RGP</b>	<b>Double Occupancy</b>

\*RGP is a highly recommended elective protection plan.

\*Rates are for rooms with 2 beds.

\*Our goal is to have 161 paying participants. Brightspark Travel has provided these alternate prices if we do not reach our goal:

# OF PAYING PASSENGERS	161	152-160	146-151
STUDENT PRICE (QUAD OCCUPANCY)	\$412	\$415	\$418
PAYING ADULT PRICE (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)	\$512	\$515	\$518

**What's Included?**

- Round-Trip Coach Transportation
- All Admission Fees to Scheduled Activities
- 2 Nights at Hotel & Overnight Hotel Security
- 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 3 Dinners
- Guided Sightseeing
- Brightspark Staff including 24-Hour Emergency Hotline
- All Taxes and Gratuities
- "Help Me Travel" Online Fundraising Tool
- Lanyards and Emergency Cards for Each Passenger
- Drawstring Backpacks
- A one-of-a-kind, fun-filled educational experience

**How do I sign up?**

Go online to [mytour.brightsparktravel.com](http://mytour.brightsparktravel.com) for the fastest and easiest way to register. Of course, if you prefer the old fashioned way, just request paper forms from your group leader.

**Any Questions?**

Contact your customer service representative at (877)545-0070 or email us at [customersupport@brightsparktravel.com](mailto:customersupport@brightsparktravel.com). Please mention your Tour Web Code, 6507862, when you call.

Looking forward to a great trip!

**Cathy Cordle**  
 Director

**REGISTER ONLINE NOW**

<https://mytour.brightsparktravel.com>  
 Enter this code and register no later than:  
 November 16, 2015

**TOUR WEB CODE**  
**6507862**

A registration fee of \$137 + payment for RGP is required.\*

**GET JUST-IN-CASE COVERAGE**

We want you to be excited for your trip, but also prepared for unexpected events. With Brightspark's Refund Guarantee Protection (RGP), you can cancel for any reason, up to the minute of departure and get a full refund, less the cost of RGP coverage for only:

**\$44 \***

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Amount	Due Date
<b>\$137 first payment*</b>	<b>11/16/2015</b>
<b>+ \$44 RGP*</b>	
<b>\$137</b>	<b>01/15/2016</b>
<b>\$138</b>	<b>03/15/2016</b>

Total Student Price  
**\$412 + RGP (optional)**

\*Please note that \$40 of the registration fee is non-refundable (unless RGP is purchased). For complete details, please read the General and Payment Terms & Conditions upon registration.

- optional

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Here's what you can look forward to:

- Band clinic - VanderCook College of Music
- Improvisation Theatre at ComedySportz
- Blue Man Group's Multimedia Theatrics
- Magnificent Mile
- Millennium Park
- Museum Of Science And Industry
- Orchestra clinic - VanderCook College of Music
- Participate in a Choir Clinic at Valparaiso University
- Perform
- Visit the Shedd Aquarium with a Group Pass

### THE BENEFITS OF MyTour

Each group that works with Brightspark Travel will have their own personalized, secure page in the MyTour Portal.

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- Manage their account profile
- Make secure payments
- Access account balances
- View tour details
- Check out the Bulletin Board where the Tour Sponsor can post important tour planning information
- Fundraise for the tour with Brightspark's exclusive "Help Me Travel" tools

**Check it out at :**  
<https://mytour.brightsparktravel.com>