

Hello Parents,

Thank you for giving me some time to answer your questions regarding ASTA. Many of you had asked about either chaperoning or just coming to the event to watch the performance. I listed below what those two roles look like as you decide what to do.

Also, many of you asked about having your child travel with you rather than traveling with the group. I have listed below the difference in those two options.

Please email me back with your option choice for your child (option #1 or option #2).

Many other questions that were asked by parents are listed below. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions and please note the first deposit and online form is due May 30th.

1. Parents as a Spectator:

- Drive themselves
- All cost is on the parent in terms of hotel, food and activities
- There is a \$10 (most likely—ASTA is still deciding on this fee) cost to the performance. It also gives access to all conference events, the exhibit hall and concert.
- Drive on your own—can not ride the bus

2. Parent as a Chaperone:

- Background check will be necessary
- Safe schools modules will be necessary
- Can drive their own children (however, not other children) or ride the rental bus
- Can help drive instruments
- Have everything paid for (hotel, food, and activities)
- Room with three other children (most rooms will have two standard beds, we can ask about rollaway bed options and students can bring their own sleeping bags if you request)
- Responsible for the children that stay in their room during the conference stay

3. Option #1 (students that want to travel with their family, stay with their family and not with the group):

- Includes conference fee
- Stay with parents at a hotel of their choice. ASTA can not guarantee space at the conference hotel for this option. Once all of the groups have entered their number of hotel rooms they will open up options for families to stay at the hotel.
- No video, medal, breakfast or lunch included
- Includes activities with the group, dinner, and bus just for student?

\$400 total

*This total could be less. We need to have at least 56 individuals riding the bus to help pay for the bus rental cost. If we have 56 students that ride the bus, the total of option #1 will be less.

4. **Option #2** (travel with the group):
 - Hotel room for 2 nights
 - Will have a chaperone in the room
 - Rooms will have 2 standard beds (potential rollaway beds and/or sleeping bags)
 - Includes video of the performance, medal, breakfast and lunch, dinner, activities, and transportation
 - Are able to share room assignment preference; final assignments are reviewed by orchestra staff and building administrators.**\$800 total**
5. **Payment Schedule with due dates and refund timeline:**

May 30th \$200 due (refundable)

***needs to be sent to school before the end of the year**

September 30th \$200 due (refundable)

November 30th \$200 due (refundable)

January 5th \$200 due (no refunds at this point)
6. **Venmo for Donation:** Due to District policy, I can not take venmo donations (only cash or checks made payable to Clayton School District).
7. **What if students audition and don't make it?** Considering your child is already in one of the ensembles, it will most likely be in either Vivace or ViBravo for next year, but that is not a guarantee. Students must work hard on these auditions over the summer. If a student is not selected to be in the ensemble, their money will be refunded.
8. **Practice Schedule for next Year (middle school students only)?**
 - ViBravo will rehearse at Wydown on **Tuesdays** from 3:15pm to 4:30pm. Tuesday PACK time (2:45pm-3:15pm) will be reserved for students that are struggling during rehearsal and need extra help.
 - There will be an additional rehearsal on **Thursdays** from 2:45pm-3:30pm. We will start these rehearsals with sectionals rotating from week to week and then transition to full orchestra rehearsals.
 - Students that are accepted into ViBravo as an elementary student will need to come to rehearsals on Tuesdays 3:45 pm-5:30 pm. I will also work with these students during 5th grade strings once a week. They will not attend the Thursday rehearsals.
9. **Block code for families? Can families stay in the conference hotel?**

ASTA can not guarantee space at the conference hotel for this option. Once all of the groups have entered their number of hotel rooms they will open up options for families to stay at the hotel.
10. **There is a required number of 16 students that have to participate, is that for the performance or overnight packages?**

Both. We need to have 16 students committed to overnight packages as well as performance in order for us to participate in this event.

11. Room assignments?

Students will have the opportunity to complete a rooming assignment preferences form that I will review in preparation for the trip. Final assignments are reviewed by orchestra staff and building administrators. Like MMEA, I worked towards having gender like students and gender like chaperone in a room.