

## **SET SAIL WITH THE GHS CHORUS - CRUISE THE CARIBBEAN**

We are excited to announce that the GHS Choral Department has booked a Western Caribbean cruise aboard Carnival Cruise Line's *Fascination*, to take place during our 2008 spring break! **The trip is open to all students who are, or will be enrolled in chorus through the 2008 spring semester, and to a limited number of GHS teachers, parent-chaperones, and family members.**

The itinerary is as follows:

Sunday, March 23	Depart Greenville (late night) via coach for Miami – arriving at the port of Miami mid-morning on Monday, March 24 <sup>th</sup> .
Monday, March 24	Day 1 – board Miami Day 2 – Key West Day 3 – Calica (Yucatan Peninsula) Day 4 – At Sea
Friday, March 28	Day 5 – disembark Miami, board coach for Greenville – arriving home (very early) on Saturday morning, March 29 <sup>th</sup> .

We have accepted an invitation for the students to give one choral performance during the cruise.

While we have received rates for the cruise itself (which include taxes, port fees, and gratuity), we have NOT received rates for coach transportation to and from Miami. We hope to the cost of coach transportation confirmed by the first week of October. **We have estimated the cost of coach transportation and arrived at a total trip price (cruise, taxes, port fees, gratuity, coach transportation) not to exceed \$800 per passenger.** While trip deposits (see schedule below) are non-refundable, Trip Cancellation Insurance (at an estimated cost of approx. \$50 per person) will be made available to everyone early in October.

The cost of cruise line excursions, side tours, souvenirs, meals en route to and from Miami, special beverages aboard ship, and the fees associated with processing a passport application (see below) are additional expenses NOT included in the cost of this trip.

**CRITICAL INFORMATION REGARDING U.S. GOVERNMENT TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS:** The U.S. Government has required all cruise ship passengers, (including U.S. citizens), regardless of age, to be in possession of a valid passport when traveling. If those persons planning to travel on this trip do not presently have a valid passport, one must be obtained by departure date. Due to an increase in the volume of passport applications, completing the process can take up to 3 months! The application fee is \$97 (per person) if you're over age 16, and \$82 (per person) otherwise. Passport photos (easily obtainable at Walgreen's for \$7) and certified birth certificates are required to accompany a passport application. Parents must accompany a minor in order for that minor to apply for a passport. For more information, or to download a passport application, visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) Passport applications are processed locally at the Greene Co. Clerk of Courts office (798-1760). We will provide you with as much information as possible, but the responsibility of initiating the passport application is yours. **We will require you to confirm that your student, and any other passengers planning to travel with us, have a valid passport or has initiated the passport application process on or before Friday, November 16, 2007 in order to hold that passenger's reservation.**

**At this time it is imperative that we identify who plans to set sail with us!** The travel dates we aimed for (trying to avoid being away on Easter Sunday morning) limited our cruise choices. Regretfully, it took us a little longer than we expected to secure a booking and as a result our confirmation and deposit deadlines are aggressive. Here's what needs to happen, and when:

**Monday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>** - We have to **confirm reservations** with the group tour company. **This means we must know, absolutely, if your student is planning to be a passenger, and if you plan on being a chaperone.** Use the attached form to indicate your intent and return it to Mrs. May immediately. We will only count and confirm spots for students and chaperones for whom we have received affirmative responses.

**Friday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>** - Due by this date: **Initial non-refundable deposit of \$200 per passenger.** Make your check payable to: GHS Chorus Boosters, place in an envelope marked: CRUISE DEPOSIT and your student's name, and deliver to Mrs. May on or before this date. In turn, we will write a check to the group tour company for the total initial deposit.

**Friday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>** - Due by this date: **Second non-refundable deposit of \$150 per passenger.** Please follow the same directions outlined for the Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> initial deposit. Also due by this date is a guarantee from parents/guardians (we'll provide the guarantee form) that the passenger(s) has a valid passport, or has initiated the passport application process.

**Friday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>** - Due by this date: **Balance of trip – not expected to exceed \$450 per passenger. This payment is also non-refundable.** Please follow the same directions outlined for the previous two deposits.

**January 2008 - Mandatory trip meeting** – all chaperones, parents/guardians & their students sailing with us must attend. (Date and time - TBA.)

At this point you may have some questions about details we haven't addressed here. Mrs. May, Mrs. Brimer, and Allison Adams are available to take your questions:

EMAIL: Mrs. May ([mayk@gcschools.net](mailto:mayk@gcschools.net))  
Allison Adams ([adams5@adelphia.net](mailto:adams5@adelphia.net))

PHONE: Mrs. May / Mrs. Brimer (Mon-Fri between 8AM –9:30AM) 787-8047  
Allison Adams 798-9961 (leave message on voicemail if need be)

Also, plan to attend the next Chorus Booster meeting on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30PM in the chorus classroom. During that meeting we hope to be able to offer additional information, address any questions or concerns, and confirm your reservations.

**Complete the form below, detach it, and return it to: Mrs. May – GHS Choral Dept., no later than Monday, Oct. 1st**

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My chorus student(s) will travel with the 2008 GHS Choral department on the Spring Break Caribbean Cruise aboard the Carnival Cruise Line's *Fascination*.

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) plan to volunteer as a chaperone on this trip.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ The following members of my family plan to attend as guests:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I am indicating that I am aware of the estimated expenses associated with the cost of the trip for each passenger (student, chaperone, guest) and will be responsible for meeting all non-refundable deposit deadlines (Oct.12, Nov. 16, Dec. 14). I am also aware of and will be responsible for ensuring that valid passport(s) for my student(s), myself, and for any additional family members traveling on this trip are in-hand, or applied for by November 16, 2007.

Signature of parent/legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of parent/legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ PH# \_\_\_\_\_