



BRAINERD BAND

H I G H S C H O O L

Dear BHS Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our great excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to work with the wonderful students here at Brainerd High School. We would like to publicly thank all of the students, parents and community members who have made such a commitment to the success of the band program here at BHS. It has been a true pleasure to get to know the students of the BHS Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band during our time here and we have been overwhelmed by the courtesy, respect and willingness to work hard shown to us by these outstanding students. They truly are *amazing*. (But then again, this is not news to you!) Our continued successes as a band are a testament to that hard work and dedication. Because of this support and dedication we are able to offer our students the life-changing educational experience detailed below.

We are very pleased to be able to continue a great tradition of the Brainerd High School Band by offering the BHS Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band the opportunity to perform in New Orleans, LA! We are very excited about the educational opportunities that this tour will allow your son or daughter. The main purpose of this tour is to broaden our knowledge and experience of music through private clinics with college faculty, musical performance as part of the Festival of the States, and experiencing the rich musical history and culture of New Orleans with groups like the Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

We believe that these opportunities will greatly benefit each student who participates and serve as a unifying experience for the members of the band. As music educators we are proud to offer this opportunity to the students because we feel it is first and foremost a great educational experience and a wonderful way to come together as a band community.

As a parent, you must know that this tour is **NOT** required as part of your student's participation in Wind Symphony or Symphonic Band. No student will be penalized in anyway for electing to not go on the tour. However, in order for the tour to be musically and educationally successful it is important that we take a full band that has the ability to perform well. This means that if student commitment to the tour leaves us with a band too small to perform, then the tour cannot happen. Please discuss this tour carefully with your family and determine if you are able to commit to the dates and monetary amount in the attached contract. Every effort will be made to make quality fundraising opportunities available to students who would like to offset the cost of the tour. Many a band tour has been paid for by a hard-working fundraiser. We will have an informational meeting on **Tuesday May 22 at 7:00p.m.** in the BHS Cafeteria. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns that are not addressed in this letter or at the meeting, please don't hesitate to e-mail us at christopher.fogderud@isd181.org and kelsi.olson@isd181.org or call the band office at 218-454-6253. Thank you so much for your continued support and we look forward to making this year a positive experience for our students!

Sincerely,
Christopher Fogderud
Kelsi Olson
Brainerd High School Bands

