

## INFORMATION REGARDING CARNIVAL CRUISE BAND TRIP 2024

**\*\*\*Please note that this trip is NOT a school board approved trip. This trip is being sponsored by the MHS Band Parent Association. You will need to fill out the attached attendance excuse note and return us.**

### CRUISES INFORMATION:

#### Carnival Valor - 5-night Cruise...Mon, March 18 through Sat. March 23

- Depart from New Orleans, LA
- Visits Cozumel, Mexico & Progreso, Mexico
- Cozumel is an island...beach break, snorkeling, island tour, shopping.
- Progreso is a small area on the mainland of Mexico right on the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula...Snorkeling, Shopping, Food, Swimming with Dolphins

#### CRUISE, CHARTER BUS, & TRAVEL PACK PRICES: (prices are subject to change)

- **\$945.00 PER PERSON / QUAD OCCUPANCY - STUDENT**
- **\$1,185.00 PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY – ADULT**
- Includes all port fees, taxes, and gratuities.
- **\*\*Does not include optional additional insurance**

#### What this includes:

- Cabin with 24 Hour Stateroom Service
- All Meals including Group Main Meal Dining, Late Night Buffet, Casual Dining in the Sea View Bistro, self-serve ice cream and more! (Does not include meals off ship)
- All Shipboard Activities and Entertainment including “Live” Entertainment, Swimming, Dancing, Teen Club, Karaoke and much more!
- Private Group Karaoke Party
- All taxes, fees (including International Departure Tax & U.S. Customs Fees) and prepaid gratuities are included in your cruise package cost. These items are subject to increase by the Port Authority and cruise lines and will be the only variable cost in your package.
- Festivals At Sea Representative onboard to assist with Check-in & various needs
- Liability Insurance Coverage
- Transportation via Charter Buses to cruise port and back to Milton HS
- Travel Pack – Band Cruise Lanyard for Sign & Sail Card, & Band Luggage Tags

#### Extra optional expenses can include:

- Cozumel excursion(s) (Free-\$95) See Handout
- Progreso excursion(s) (Free-\$90) See Handout
- Onboard soda-plan (\$9.50 x 5 Days = \$47.50) Soft drinks are not included and can cost \$2.00 - \$3.00 per individual drink. You can purchase a Bottomless Bubble package and save some money.
- On-board specialty items (specialty coffees & desserts), souvenirs, professional photos, etc.
- Internet Packages....Just remember, you are on a cruise.
  - **Social wifi plan - \$12.75 per person per day x 5 = \$63.75**
    - Access the most popular social websites and applications. Includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, LinkedIn, Facebook Messenger, Whatsapp, SnapChat and the most popular airline sites. Does not include access to most other websites or apps.
  - **Value Wifi Plan - \$17 per person per day x 5 = \$85**
    - Surf all your favorite sites, including e-mail, news, sports, weather, banking and finance. Note: Does not support Skype calling or music/video streaming (such as Spotify or Netflix).
  - **Premium Wifi plan – \$18.70 per person per day x 5 = \$93.50**
    - From e-mail to video calls, our Premium plan promises the fastest possible connection, at speeds up to 3 times faster than our Value Plan. Supports Skype, Zoom and Teams video calling, where coverage allows.

## Payment Schedule:

August 24 <sup>th</sup>	-	Band Trip Intention Form Due
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	-	***\$250 per person Non-Refundable deposit due***
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	-	\$250 per person
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	-	\$250 per person
December 1 ( <i>90 days to sailing</i> )	-	Remaining Balance of cruise...excluding excursion.
February 1 <sup>st</sup> (Tentative)	-	Excursion balance

\*\*\*If you choose to get the additional trip insurance, the deposit amount will increase to include that insurance.

## Cancellation Policy:

<b>Cancellation Date</b>	<b>Non-Refundable Amount</b>
Upon Deposit Receipt	First Deposit Non-Refundable + Insurance
180-105 Days (Sept. 20-Dec. 4)	50% total of trip fee MINIMUM + Insurance
104-Day of Cruise (Dec. 5-March 18)	100% Non-Refundable + Insurance

## Name Change Policy

Name Changes are allowed only at the discretion of Carnival Cruise Lines. At 120 days prior to sailing (November 19), a \$75.00 Fee will be applicable for each and every change involving names. Remember, name changes must be male to male or female to female.

***At least one original person must stay in the cabin or it will be considered a complete cabin cancellation.***

## Other Things to Know:

- **\*\*\*Travel Documents** – You will need proof of US Citizenship. A **Passport** is highly recommended; however you may use a *state-issued birth certificate along with a government-issued photo ID* since it is a closed-loop tour...meaning that you depart and arrive back in the same port. A passport would allow you to fly home from Mexico in the event of an emergency. Current turnaround time on passports is 10 to 13 weeks. If you choose to use a **birth certificate**, please make sure that you have the state-issued birth certificate...not the one with your handprints and footprints on them! Passports will cost you \$130 and are available at the Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts Office. You can have your passport photos made at CVS Pharmacy in Milton. More info can be found at <https://santarosaclerk.com/other-services/passports/>
- **Four students per cabin AND Two adults per cabin.** Each of you should have your own bed. The cabins are usually set-up like having two bunk beds with the top beds being lowered down from the wall. Participants should not have to share beds...unless they are a married couple and request that the beds be turned into a King bed.
- The cabins are **interior rooms**...meaning that they have no windows! But the cabin is usually only a place for resting, showering, and sleeping. There are tons of activities to do outside of the cabin...or just simply find a lounge chair and enjoy the sun and ocean.
- **Money on Board the ship and in port** – The cruise uses what is called a cashless system, meaning that no cash or debit/credit cards are accepted. Passengers will load their “sign-and-sail” accounts once you board the ship on day 1 and use your that on board. More on this at a later meeting. Both ports accept credit/debit cards as well as American cash. Remember to inform your band that you will be in Mexico March 13-23 to avoid automatic fraud holds.
- **If you book outside of the group**, remember that you are NOT part of the Band Trip. Our activities don’t include you or your family. Remember that you’ll need to provide your own transportation and pay for parking at the port, arrange your own excursions, and take care of your own check-in and debarkation.
- We will have some “**cruise training**” meetings that will take place prior to our departure. We will cover items such as Mexican culture, insight into packing, proper dining etiquette, cruise hints & tips, etc. Adults attending the trip are encouraged to attend these meetings.
- One of the dinners on the cruise will be a **Formal Night**. **Dressy attire** will be required of all participants. Some of the young ladies wear prom dresses. Any dressy Sunday dress, or semiformal or formal gown. For gentlemen, a suit and tie, slacks, sport coat and tie. A tuxedo is also appropriate but is not required. I’ve discovered that our students like to dress up for this event in the past! It is okay to dress up multiple nights.
- Of all the trips that we take every four years with the band, this is **one of the most memorable trips** for our students! For the majority of our students, this is their first cruise as well as their first time being out of the country. The education that they receive from this experience is priceless!
- **Questions???** Please feel free to ask us!

## POSSIBLE EXCURSIONS

### Cozumel

#### Package #1 - Dolphin Encounter with Unlimited Food & Drink - \$94.99 / Person

- <https://www.carnival.com/shore-excursions/cozumel/dolphin-encounter-with-unlimited-food--drink-304114>
- **Dolphin Encounter:** Dolphinaris Cozumel is a beautiful haven with calm ocean coves where you can meet the world's most fascinating creatures. Enjoy a fin shake and an unforgettable hug, all while standing in waist-deep water.
- **Aquatic Fun Activities:** Choose one of these three water activities — snorkeling with colorful tropical fish in our natural aquarium; or for those looking for a little more adventure, kayaking or paddle boarding on the ocean.
- **All-Inclusive Delights:** Indulge in unlimited food and beverages.
- **What's Included:**
  - Unlimited food and drinks.
  - Kayaks and paddle boards.

#### Package #2 - Paradise Beach Break (*non-Carnival excursion*) - \$50-\$70 / Person

- <http://www.paradise-beach-cozumel.com/>
- All-Inclusive
  - Access to our beach, heated pool and pier
  - Lounge chairs & umbrellas
  - All you can eat & drink from our menu all day long! You can view our full menu here: <http://lmhd.mx/enqr/>
  - Bathrooms, changing rooms & freshwater showers.
  - FREE high speed wifi
- Taxi Ride from Pier – One way prices (*1-4 passenger - \$15 / 5 passenger - \$21 / 6-8 passenger- \$30*)
- Fun Pass – additional \$10 per person
  - Famous waterpark, kayaks, water hammocks, snorkel gear, and stand-up paddle boards
- **Description:** Enjoy a sun-filled day at one of Cozumel's best beach breaks. Some of the features include the Biggest Heated Pool in Cozumel, 2 Restaurants, Pool Bar, Taco Truck, Shopping &, Free WiFi, , Lockers, , Changing Rooms, Showers, Clean Bathrooms. This is truly a tropical paradise!!! Visit the website above for more information.
- Henna Tattoos, Hair Braids & Wraps, Massages, Wave Runners, Parasailing, and Banana Boat ride also available at an additional cost.
- **MUST DEPART BY 2pm!!**

#### Package #3 – Shopping and Sight-seeing Cozumel – Free-as much as you want to spend.

- Explore as a group the port and immediate city of Cozumel.
- Shopping, restaurants, tours, relaxing, and more. The sky's the limit
- Possible expenses
  - Taxi Ride from Pier – One-way prices (*1-4 passenger - \$15 / 5 passenger - \$21 / 6-8 passenger- \$30*)
  - Money for souvenirs
  - Money for food

## Progreso

### Package #1 - Blue Hole, Cenotes & Swim Adventure - \$89.99 / person

- <https://www.carnival.com/shore-excursions/progreso/blue-hole-cenotes--swim-adventure-320059>
- **Underground Rivers:** The Mayans believed that the cavern cenotes (a deep, water-filled sinkhole in limestone that creates a natural pool filled by rain and water from underground rivers) were sacred and used them to communicate with their gods. Swim in two of the caverns and discover the most amazing miracles of nature, as you admire the natural beauty, the amazing rock formations, stalactites and stalagmites, and the beautiful colors. This is truly a bucket list experience!
- **Mayan Shops:** Visit a Mayan village and support its economy while you enjoy a delicious local lunch and buying local arts and crafts.
- **What's Included:**
  - Authentic Mexican lunch.
  - Lunch and one soft beverage.

### Package #2 - Xcambo Ruins & Amazing City Spots - \$80.99 / person

- <https://www.carnival.com/shore-excursions/progreso/xcambo-ruins--amazing-city-spots-320100>
- **Xcambo Mayan Ruins:** Not only visit a famous Mayan site, but you will have the opportunity to climb the Mayan temples. Admire the splendor of this Mayan city considered an important trading center that specialized in salt production exported throughout the Mayan Peninsula. Xcambo comes from the Maya word meaning “celestial crocodile” or a place where exchanges are made. Among the structures that you will visit is the Temple of Sacrifices, where your guide will share important information about this ancient culture.
- **Merida City:** Yucatán’s vibrant capital city of Mérida is bursting with historic landmarks, colonial heritage and authentic Mexican culture. Travel along the famous Paseo de Montejo with its interesting colonial buildings and historical sites that embody a heavy Mayan, French and British influence with a hint of Dutch.
- **What's Included:**
  - Archeological site entrance.
  - Lunch (3 salbutes + 1 fresh water).

### Package #3 - Shopping and Sight-seeing Progreso – Free-as much as you want to spend.

- Explore as a group the port and immediate city of Cozumel.
- Shopping, restaurants, tours, relaxing, and more. The sky’s the limit
- Possible expenses
  - Taxi Ride from Pier – One-way prices (1-4 passenger - \$15 / 5 passenger - \$21 / 6-8 passenger- \$30)
  - Money for souvenirs
  - Money for food

**BAND TRIP INTENTION FORM – CRUISE TO COZUMEL & PROGRESO, MEXICO**

**-Please return this form ASAP...no later than August 24<sup>th</sup> -**

We intend for the following family members to attend the cruise to Cozumel on March 18, 2024:

_____	____/____/____
<i>FULL LEGAL NAME</i>	<i>DATE OF BIRTH</i>
_____	____/____/____
<i>FULL LEGAL NAME</i>	<i>DATE OF BIRTH</i>
_____	____/____/____
<i>FULL LEGAL NAME</i>	<i>DATE OF BIRTH</i>
_____	____/____/____
<i>FULL LEGAL NAME</i>	<i>DATE OF BIRTH</i>

We understand that a payment of \$250 per participant is due by September 1<sup>st</sup>, a second payment of \$250 is due by October 1<sup>st</sup>, a third payment of \$250 is due November 1<sup>st</sup>, and the remaining balance is due by December 1. We have also reviewed the Cancellation policy (*located in the original information packet*) and understand that monies may not be reimbursed dependent on the time of cancellation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent / Guardian Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*