



October 2, 2023

Dear **Concert Choir** Parents,

I am delighted to be writing to you now about our upcoming tour! The **12th Annual Concert Choir Tour to New York City** and the surrounding area will take place from **March 6-10, 2024**. This year's tour will include performances by the Concert Choir at schools and other venues, as well as our attendance at: three Broadway Shows (we have already booked *Wicked* and *Shucked*, and have one more "in request" with the box office), as well as other very noteworthy venues, such as John's Pizzeria and Rosary Hill Cancer Hospice Home (where we have a beautiful, long-standing relationship of charity). While on tour we perform every day, and experience some of the best performances and workshops in the world.

Obviously, there is substantial cost involved for our tour. **The cost for each student is \$1500**. This is more than the cost two years ago because the hotel is no longer free (we had comp rooms two years ago, due to "Covid" compensation and, the bus cost, particularly with diesel fuel cost, is much greater). This year, for the first time, we are doing all of our payments through FACTS, so we can offer an all new **payment plan** of \$250 per month (October through March) if you have the ability to pay sooner than this date, it honestly helps us because we must spend thousands "up front" on this amazing tour.

In addition to this, our Student Leadership Team and I are working to develop **fundraising** for this tour. **Our primary fundraising medium will be our annual raffle**, which can reduce the cost of the tour by hundreds of dollars. In the past, for example, a few members of the choir paid for themselves, and even went beyond this to help others! I will share more about this in the days and weeks to come. We will begin fundraising very soon, and continue this up to the Tour Kickoff Concert in March, so that each student can raise maximum funds. Each ticket sold directly benefits the student who sells it, with 90% efficiency (10% covers the cost of the prizes and printing).

The costs of this tour have been closely controlled. We do not use a tour company because I have 28 years of experience, both at JP II and at a previous private school where I have overseen 27 tours both in the United States and internationally. I have planned this tour with 21 persons to "break even." For this tour to happen, we need a commitment, please. **Please use the QR Code, below, to initiate your payment plan or to indicate that you will send a check for payment in full.** If you are interested in helping to sponsor a student or in helping with fundraising beyond anything I have mentioned, please let me know. We would be grateful for the assistance because the Arts and this school, especially in its mission, are worthy of your efforts! If you are a parent/guardian interested in attending at regular cost*, please let me know because a limited number of spots may be available.

One final and very important note: there are strategies to assist with serious financial problems. **Our goal is to bring every member of the Concert Choir on this tour, so please let me know now if you have any questions or concerns (I am happy to help).** There are always a few generous individuals who offer to help with costs, so please contact me if there are any dire financial problems, **or if you would like to help with this noble effort.** We have been blessed with anonymous donations for the tour in the past, and this has helped, greatly. In the meantime, we will continue to work hard and prepare for this exciting tour experience. I can be contacted at rfish@jpiihyannis.org with any questions you might have. Let us pray for each other, and for this tour! I am

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Deacon Richard Fish, Jr., Director of Performing Arts



**PLEASE REPLY ON OR
BEFORE OCTOBER 9
VIA LINK OR QR CODE.**

*The cost for an adult on tour is slightly higher, due to hotel room occupancy.

Please see the Google Form by using the QR Code for further details.