



Leon High School

Tallahassee, FL 32308

(850) 617-5700

Lion Steel Band Program

Dr. Kayleen Justus, [Director](#)

justusk@leonschools.net

October 30th, 2023

Dear Lion Steel Canboulay and Bacchanal Students and Parents,

Hello! This letter contains the information and required participation agreement form for the Lion Steel academic performance trip to the **Virginia International Pan Festival** in **May 2024**. This event is a prestigious competition for steel bands from the US, Caribbean, Europe, and Asia featuring pedigreed judges and clinicians who evaluate and provide customized feedback about each bands' festival performance.

Leon's Lion Steel Band Program has performed alongside other fantastic steel bands on this oceanside stage for the PanFest since when the Festival first began in the early 2000s. Our program has won champion and grand champion awards consistently. Not only is this an exciting event that will challenge each member of Canboulay and Bacchanal to play to their absolute best, the trip is a celebration of many months of the students' hard work and diligent daily practice in our panyard class room at Leon.

The 2024 Festival Performance will occur on Saturday, May 11th, 2024 in Virginia Beach, Virginia at the 24th Street boardwalk stage. We will be traveling by bus from Tallahassee to Virginia: **May 9th – May 12th, 2024**. You can explore more general information about the PanFest at <http://www.vapanfest.org/about>.

The information in this letter includes: the trip itinerary, the cost per student, the fee payment schedule, and a participation agreement form. Please read through the information below and **return the appropriate signed form (page 4) by Monday, December 8th, 2023**.

Parents - we need chaperones! If you are interested in being a chaperone for this trip, please let me know by completing [this SignUp Genius form online](#) so that I can touch base with you about the necessary steps to become certified by Leon County Schools. If you are already cleared by the county to do this, please consider serving as a chaperone for us in May 2024 for this trip (and let me know by completing the above SignUp Genius form)!

If you have any questions about the trip, please feel free to reach out to me at justusk@leonschools.net or via the Remind app. I'll keep in touch with you about the trip in the coming months and we will schedule a meeting in late-March or early-April 2024 with parents, students, and chaperones to discuss additional details, procedures, and policies as we prepare to travel to Virginia in May!

Cheers,
Dr. Kayleen Justus

Director of Steel Bands

Leon High School

justusk@leonschools.net

lionsteel.leonperformingarts.org

Virginia Panfest Trip Itinerary: May 9th - 12th, 2024

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024

7:30a-1:00p – move pans to auditorium during school

7:00p Q4 Concert (6:15p call time for students)

8:30p Canboulay and Bacchanal students will pack instruments and load into truck

Thursday, May 9th, 2024

~6:00am – Depart Leon HS for VB

7:00-8:00p – Arrive in VB @ hotel, check in

9:00-10:30p – Pizza, hang, free time

11:00p – Room check; sleep

Friday, May 10th, 2024

8:00-9:00a – Breakfast @ hotel

10:00a-4:00pm – Workshop and/or free time (including lunch together)

4:30-8:30pm – Rehearsal at hotel (or nearby); dinner; evening Festival Concert

8:30-10:30pm – Free time

11:00p – Room check; sleep

Saturday, May 11th, 2024

7:30-8:30a – Breakfast @ hotel, check out

10:00a-4:00p – Festival Performances (including loading in/out, lunch, etc)

4:30-6:30p – Headliner concert

6:30-7:15p – Dinner

7:30p – Depart VB to return to Leon HS

Sunday, May 12th, 2024

12:00p(ish) – Arrive @ Leon HS

Monday, May 13th, 2024 (during school)

7:30a-11:00a – unload truck, unpack instruments

Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites VA Beach Oceanfront

2607 Atlantic Avenue

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

(757) 491 – 6900

The hotel is within walking distance of the PanFest stage and lots of shops and restaurants and it is just steps to the oceanfront boardwalk and (of course) the beach.

Coach Information:

Candies Coachworks, Inc.

6916 W. University Ave.

Gainesville, Fl. 32607

(352) 332 – 5003

2024 Virginia PanFest Trip Fee – Per Student

Transportation (bus, truck, gas) = \$300

Hotel = \$130

Meals = \$60

Festival Registration = \$50

TOTAL = \$540*

The total trip fee above represents the *maximum* cost for each student to participate. This figure includes:

- 1) the round-trip **transportation** costs, which include a driver and 56-passenger coach bus with air conditioning and a restroom for the students and chaperones and a 26-foot Penske truck that I will drive to transport the instruments and equipment;
- 2) the **hotel** rooms for Thursday and Friday nights at the Holiday Inn Express, which includes breakfast each day, in-room wifi, and parking for the coach and equipment truck;
- 3) **meals**, including dinner on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, Friday/Saturday lunches, and snacks (one each day Thursday - Saturday and bus munchies).
- 4) PanFest **registration**, which includes access to the Friday performance clinic (optional) and the Saturday Festival Performance event (required).

*****To help decrease the total cost per student**, Lion Steel has been awarded funds from Leon County Schools, which will bring the approximate total maximum cost per student to \$440. *In addition to this funding from the district*, we will also run a **Snap! Raise campaign in November - December** to further lower the per-student cost. Parents (and students) please see the Snap! Raise campaign information sheet attached at the end of this letter for details. I will be reaching out to you during the week of October 30 - November 3 (this week) to share additional information about this fundraising campaign.

Fee Payment Schedule and Information

January 19th, 2024 – 33.33%

March 8th, 2024 – 33.33%

April 26th, 2024 – 33.33%

The trip fee can be paid by check or money order (made to “Leon High School”) – no cash – or paid online through the Leon HS eFunds link (please indicate in the notes field that you are paying the “Lion Steel Virginia PanFest Fee” each time you submit a payment). The online payment option will be available beginning in January 2024.

*Fees must be paid according to the schedule above in order for our trip budget to work.

*Fees are not refundable except in the case of an emergency. The trip cost is calculated in relation to the number of students who have committed to participate and cannot be changed once the deposits have been made for hotel, transportation, and festival registration.

*A small number of scholarships in the form of financial assistance are available to help further offset the cost of the trip fee for qualified students. Please contact me directly at justusk@leonschools.net to inquire about these scholarship opportunities.

**2024 Lion Steel Virginia PanFest Trip Participation Agreement Form
(and Parent Permission Slip)**

→ PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

Please sign one of the two sections below and return to Dr. Justus by **MONDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 2023.**

AGREE TO PARTICIPATE: I have read and understand the contents of the Virginia International PanFest 2024 Trip Letter. By signing and printing my name below, I **AGREE TO PARTICIPATE** (and permit my child to participate, for parents/guardians) in the academic performance event as per the terms outlined in this letter. My signature and printed name below also affirm that the trip fees will be submitted as per the schedule outlined on page 3 of the trip letter.

→ Student Signature

PRINT NAME/DATE

→ Parent Signature

PRINT NAME/DATE

DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE: I have read and understand the contents of the Virginia International PanFest 2024 Trip Letter. By signing and printing my name below, I **DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE** (and decline my child's participation, for parents/guardians) in the academic performance event as per the terms outlined in this letter.

→ Student Signature

PRINT NAME/DATE

→ Parent Signature

PRINT NAME/DATE

Snap! Raise Digital Fundraiser

Leon High School Steel Band Program 2023



ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGN

We're kicking off our fundraiser with Snap! Raise, the nation's leading fundraising platform for groups, clubs, and teams.

For the past 5 years, the Snap! Raise platform has helped more than 35,000 groups in the US raise more than \$500M in funding! The process is simple: we will raise money by telling our story over email, text messages, and social media posts.

I'm excited to get started and have one vital request:

I ask that you help your student create a profile & identify at least 20 people to share the campaign page with via the Snap! Raise platform.

The list of 20 people should include many of your student's biggest fans and needs to be completed in full no later than **11/8/23** to ensure our the campaign is set up for success. Thank you for the continued support of our program!



Scan the QR code to get started!



Is My Data Safe?

Snap! Raise never sells, shares, or spams the email addresses entered in the campaign.

Contact (Examples)

- Parent/Guardian #1
- Parent/Guardian #2
- Grandma
- Grandpa
- Cousin(s)
- Uncle(s)
- Aunt(s)
- Family Doctor
- Orthodontist/Dentist
- Church/Social Leader
- Scout/Troop Leader
- Former Coach
- Family friend #1
- Family friend #2
- School alumni
- Local business
- Neighbor(s)
- Co-workers
- Friends of
- Parent

10/31/2023

Dear Lion Steel Canboulay and Bacchanal Musicians and Parents,

Our program needs your help! We are launching a Snap Raise campaign to fundraise for our trip to the Virginia International PanFest in May 2024. The purpose of this fundraising campaign is to minimize the cost per student to participate in this multi-day academic performance field trip and to avoid passing along the usual hassles of a school-related fundraiser to the families of our Lion Steel students.

For this campaign, students will not be required to sell, handle, or distribute physical products in order to raise funds - the only requirement will be to create a student account on our Lion Steel Snap! Raise campaign platform and add 20+ email contacts to their profile before we go live with it. Parents should help their student compile these emails in a note on their phone so they can easily upload them to our campaign. I'll help students set up their accounts and upload emails in class this week and next.

The most important part of the campaign will be providing these email contacts to our database so that Lion Steel can reach the highest number of likely donors. We will also be sharing the fundraiser on social media and via text. Once we launch the campaign next week, I will follow up via Remind, email/Focus, and through our instagram page (@leonlionsteel) to share post-able content and the QR code for our campaign.

Our fundraiser will be live until after the next concert on November 29th, so to ensure the best turnout for both the fundraiser and for our next concert, please make sure to share the information with family and friends during Thanksgiving Break!

I'll share the ongoing progress of our fundraising campaign while it is live in November and again after it closes in December. This will give you the most up-to-date information about how our campaign progress will translate into the (lower) per-student cost to participate in the Virginia International PanFest trip in May 2024. If you have any questions about our Snap Raise campaign for this trip will work, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you!

Dr. Justus