



Leon High School

Tallahassee, FL 32308 (850) 617-5700

Lion Steel Band Program

Dr. Kayleen Justus, [Director](#)
justusk@leonschools.net

January 7th, 2025

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 2025**. 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 competition stage for the PanFest since 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 2025 Festival Performance will occur on Saturday, May 10th, 2025 in Virginia Beach, Virginia at the 24th Street boardwalk stage. We will be traveling by bus from Tallahassee to Virginia: Thursday morning, May 8th – Sunday evening, May 11th, 2025. You can view the general information about the PanFest at <https://www.vafest.org/panfest/>.

The information in this packet includes: the trip itinerary, the cost per student (and parent chaperone), the fee payment schedule, and a participation agreement form. If you plan go on this trip, please read through the information below and **return the appropriate signed form (page 4) on or before Tuesday, February 18th, 2025** to secure your spot.

Parents – if you are interested in being a chaperone for this trip, please indicate your interest 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 to be an overnight chaperone. This form is also linked on our Lion Steel website in a digital copy of this letter. If you are already cleared by the county to do this, please consider serving as a chaperone for us in May 2025 for this trip! NOTE: Only parents/guardians who have completed this clearance through the county will be permitted to serve as chaperones for the trip. Please complete this application process as soon as possible to be included on the chaperone list for this trip.

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 to remind you about the fee payment schedule, to share information about our SnapRaise fundraising campaign (we'll run this in March), and to schedule a meeting in late-March or early-April with all participants 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 8th – 11th, 2025

Wednesday, May 7th, 2025

1:00 – 3:00p – pack and load pans into the truck
Rest and pack for the trip

Thursday, May 8th, 2025

~6:00am – Depart Leon HS for VB
7:00-8:00p – Arrive in VB @ hotel, check in
9:00-10:30p – Pizza, hang
11:00p – Room check; sleep

Friday, May 9th, 2025

8:00-9:00a – Breakfast @ hotel
10:00a-4:00pm – Free time
4:30-8:30pm – Rehearsal at/nearby hotel; dinner; evening Festival Concert
8:30-10:30pm – Free time
11:00p – Room check; sleep

Saturday, May 10th, 2025

7:30-8:30a – Breakfast @ Hotel, check out
10:00a-7:00p – Festival Performances (including loading in/out; lunch and dinner together along the strip)
7:00p Dance Party while judges tally scores
8:00-8:30p Awards
8:30 – 10:30p Headliner Concert and free time
11:00p – Room check; pack; sleep

Sunday, May 11th, 2025

~6:00a – Depart VB for Leon HS
7:00-8:00p – Arrive at Leon HS, unpack bus
12:00p(ish) – Arrive @ Leon HS (bus)

Monday, May 12th or Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 (during school)

7:30a-11:00a – unload truck, unpack instruments, set up for Q4 Concert

**AP exams (Leon Guidance will schedule make-ups for students with exam times that conflict with the trip – students were already included in this count in September 2024).*

Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites VA Beach Oceanfront
2607 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451
(757) 491 – 6900

Coach Information:

Candies Coachworks, Inc.
6916 W. University Ave.
Gainesville, Fl. 32607
(352) 332 – 5003

2025 Virginia PanFest Trip Fee – Per Person

Transportation (bus, truck, gas) = \$300
Hotel = \$210
Meals = \$70
Festival Registration = \$40
TOTAL = \$620

The round-trip **transportation** costs for the Virginia PanFest trip include a driver and 56-passenger coach bus with air conditioning and restroom for the students and chaperones, a 26-foot Penske truck that I will drive to transport the instruments and equipment, and fuel for the equipment truck.

The per-person cost for our block of **hotel** rooms for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at the Holiday Inn Express includes breakfast each day, in-room wifi, and parking for the coach and equipment truck. The hotel is within walking distance of the PanFest stage, oceanfront boardwalk, lots of shops and restaurants, and (of course) the beach.

The **meal** cost listed above will cover students' dinner on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights as well as Saturday lunches.

The cost per student for PanFest **registration** is \$40, which will include access to the Saturday Festival Performance and Competition events.

Fee Payment Schedule and Information

March 3rd, 2025 – \$205

April 4th, 2025 – \$205* (contingent upon results of SnapRaise campaign and other funding)

May 2nd, 2025 – remaining balance* (contingent upon results of SnapRaise campaign)

The trip fee can be paid by check or money order (made to “Leon High School”) – no cash – or paid online (link to pay will be emailed to everyone and posted to our as soon as possible).

*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.

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

2025 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 **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th 2025.**

AGREE TO PARTICIPATE: I have read and understand the contents of the Virginia Beach PanFest 2025 Information Packet and 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 Beach PanFest 2025 Information Packet and 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