

Expectations for Parents and Chaperones

We are a very large group and we are fortunate that so many of you are going on the trip with us. Although we have four “official” chaperones (Jonathan Barlow, Donna Cipicchio, Claudia Kieffer and Michael McLaughlin), it will take many hands to keep things running smoothly and on time so we ask that all parents provide assistance throughout the trip with the following:

1. **The Timeliness Factor:** We have a tight schedule so it is absolutely necessary that everyone is on time. This is particularly important when it comes to the bus. The drivers are allowed only a certain amount of time behind the wheel per day. While “on the road” between destinations, any stop we make must be quick and timely. Feel free to enjoy your free time in whatever manner you choose (as long as it is legal) but, when free time is over, we must all meet at the appointed place and time. Please discourage dawdlers and feel free to give time warnings. The scheduled tours and the busses will not wait for late adults. Your help by example as well as marshalling students will be greatly appreciated.

2. **The Food Factor:** Meals are important, especially breakfasts which are included in our hotel rates. Please be aware of the students and encourage them to eat – many will try to skip breakfast to get additional sleep. Not a good idea. During our breaks for lunch, encourage students to eat first, shop later. When we stop for lunch while on the road, help the students get through the lunch line – a lot of this is unfamiliar to them (as it may be to some of us but we are the grown-ups, so fake it). It is never a fun experience for a student to suffer ill effects from hunger, especially during a concert. Along with food, encourage drinking water and discourage sodas and such. Students may have one glass of wine or beer at dinner only on nights when we don’t have a concert and only if the parents have given permission. The official chaperones will be given a list of who may not drink alcohol. Please check with them if you have any questions. Infractions will be dealt with by Mr. Ehrlich.

3. **The Sleep Factor:** Every night there will be a time set for lights out. There are some 43 rooms to check. We need parents to help with this – one or two every night in addition to our chaperones (who might even like a night off). A schedule will be made up and distributed in Salzburg. We don’t know room numbers in advance and the chaperones will be given those when we check in. Some time after check in the parents on the schedule will be given their rooms to check. Again, sleep is important and while napping on the bus is ok (but not during tours), it doesn’t replace a good night’s sleep. Students may need to be reminded that we are not the only guests in the hotel.

4. **The Good Tourist Factor:** All participants are expected to abide by the dress code as outlined on the Tips For Packing (see web site if you lost your copy). Please feel free to point out inappropriate dress to students. Remind them that we are guests in another culture and to be respectful. Again, if we set the tone, they are more likely to follow.

5. **Side Tours: All students are expected to attend all scheduled meals and events.**

While you are welcome to do things that are not on our itinerary, it is very important that you let the chaperones and Mr. Ehrlich know that you will not be with the group for a scheduled event. If you will be taking a side tour with your student, please confirm those arrangements with Mr. Ehrlich well in advance.

Side tours that include any students are to be scheduled during free time only.

6. **Communication Chain:** Mr. Ehrlich is in charge. It is up to him to make decisions about schedule changes, behavior issues, what the students sing, where they sing, etc. To minimize stress and confusion, there is a “chain of communications”. If you have issues, concerns, questions, please address them first to the chaperones who may have some additional information and/or will bring them to the attention of either the tour escorts or Mr. Ehrlich. On the bus or while touring in groups, the chaperones are there to assist the tour escorts disseminate information, keep order, etc. Please do not ask the tour escorts to help you with your personal plans – they may be happy to make some suggestions about things to see and do but their primary responsibility is managing our group tour. Mr. Ehrlich will meet with the tour escorts every evening to confirm the next day’s plans and then either he, the tour escorts and/or the chaperones will update everyone else.