

OAA Music Mission Trip Kenya, Africa 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Fund Raising: Money for the trip is due Feb. 9, 2017. (\$1,500) This is the day before we have to send money to purchase our tickets. Please remember, students must make sure they send out the minimum amount of fund raising letters regardless if parents are able to pay the full amount or not. If you feel that your child will not meet this goal by the due date, please contact Mr. Knipple ASAP. Email: rknipple@ozarkacademy.org

Passports: A copy of each student's passport picture page is due, Feb. 7, 2017.

Vaccinations: It is strongly recommended that each students receives the following vaccinations before traveling to Kenya:

Yellow Fever, Malaria, Typhoid, & Hepatitis A.

If you as a parent are not wanting to have your child receive these vaccinations, you must fill out the **Parental Consent and Assumption of Disease Risks** form available on the OAA Music Web Page. This form must be completed and returned to Gina Webb by March 18, 2017.

Luggage: Each participant is allowed the following on the trip. Students will not be allowed to bring more then one checked bag regardless of what the airline allows.

Checked Bag:

The total dimensions (length + width + height) of each piece must not exceed 150 cm (59 inches). Weight Limit, 50 lbs. (Students may only check one bag)

Carry On:

Customers are permitted one piece of carry-on baggage, **either** a handbag **or** laptop bag, that may not exceed 55 x 38 x 20 cm (22 x 15 x 8 in.) and must weigh no more than 7 kg (15 lbs).

Sleeping Bags: Most of the time, bedding will be provided for participants on the trip. However, there are at least 3-4 nights where each person will need to provide their own bedding. Therefore, each person will need to pack his or her own sleeping bag or bedding in their check bag (one per person)

Phones/Electronics: Because of the nature of the trip and importance of each student being focused on the purpose of the trip, cell phones and/or any electronics will not be allowed on the trip.

Communication: To fulfill the purpose of being able to communicate with your child, each adult staff member will have a cell phone that can be used everywhere we are going in Kenya. Also, students will have an opportunity each day, if desired, to communicate with their family via Face-time, Skype, or email. Parents will also have the cell phone numbers of each staff so they may communicate with their child in case of an emergency.

We know how important it is that you know the safety and well-being of your child when they are out of the country, and we will make every opportunity to keep that communication available.

A trip blog will be set up online to allow for pictures and trip journaling to be updated daily by our staff and students. The blog will be private, with each parent receiving the login and password information to view it. One reason for the blog being private, and for not allowing cell phones on the trip, is to prevent the unwanted posting of information about that trip that could affect the safety of our young people. Also, we want our young people to be focused on the purpose of the trip and engage in face-to-face conversations with their peers.

Money: All costs for the trip, including travel, lodging, food, visa, and other fees, is covered in the individual cost. Students will want to bring extra money for souvenirs or snacks while on the trip.