

Weeki Wachee High School 12150 Vespa Way Weeki Wachee, FL 34614

## Ed LaRose Principal

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Mildred Murrman-Dudley
Assistant Principal

Brandy Sladek Assistant Principal John Weaver Assistant Principal

To: School Board Members

RE: WGI Color Guard World Championships Trip 2026

To Whom it may concern,

Our color guard program, a part of our Fine Arts Department, is requesting the opportunity to attend WGI Color Guard World Championships in Dayton, Ohio, in April 2026. This would mark our school's first-ever participation in the prestigious World Championships, where our students will compete amongst the top programs across the nation and around the globe. The trip dates are April 7<sup>th</sup> 2026- April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Attached you will find an itinerary for the upcoming 2026 trip. We have included time for sightseeing, and the ability to watch performances delivered by the top 15 color guard programs in the world. You will find the field trip packet completed to the best of our ability. Some information in the field trip packet cannot be provided until future dates, such as students attending, chaperones attending, etc. Listed below are estimations based on current prices in Dayton, Ohio.

This competition is a 3-day performance opportunity with prelims on 4/9/26, semifinals on 4/10/2026 and finals on 4/11/2026. Students would be performing at one of three venues near the University of Dayton Arena in Dayton, Ohio. The actual performance schedules are not presented until January of 2026. Historically speaking, the three possible venues would be the Dayton Convention Center, Cintas Center at Xavier University or the Truist Arena at Northern Kentucky University. All sites are within an hour from the University of Dayton Arena- which is the site where finals are held if our team qualifies.

Our travel would begin on Thursday April 8, flying direct from Tampa International Airport into John Glenn Columbus International Airport, James M. Cox Dayton International Airport or the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport. The current flight prices for this time of the year are \$350 round trip.

The estimated cost for each student is \$1197, which breaks down to the following:

Flight \$350 roundtrip

Hotel \$325 per student (based on 4 students in one room, for 4 nights)

Rental Vans \$255 per student (\$3836 total- 2 vans for 5 days)

Scholastic A Class Finals Performance Tickets - \$58 per student

Scholastic World Class Finals Performance Tickets - \$95 per student

Registration Fees \$94 per student (\$1415 total)

Rehearsal Facilities \$20 per student (\$300 total)

Other additional costs would include meals and entertainment

We project this number could fluctuate slightly based on exact numbers and cannot be determined until we have a commitment from all students involved.



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In order to offset the students costs, they will have the opportunity to fundraise throughout the school year to raise money to pay for the trip. In previous years for any of our trips, we have had students raise enough money to cover the entire amount of their trip.

A list of students attending the competition will be given to all parties involved once commitment is confirmed after the first of the 2026 year. Hotel and flight information with flight numbers will be provided at least a month in advance. A more accurate agenda will be provided to all parties involved as we get closer to the trip.

We believe that attending the WGI Color Guard World Championships represents an extraordinary opportunity for our students to learn, grow, and excel in their craft. Beyond the competition, the experience will provide cultural enrichment, team bonding, and exposure to world-class performances, which will undoubtedly inspire our students to achieve new heights in their artistic pursuits. We kindly ask for your support in making this groundbreaking trip a reality for our color guard program. Thank you for considering this request, and we look forward to working together to provide our students with this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Please let me know if we need to provide any further information.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bridgit Judson

Color Guard Director and Science Teacher Weeki Wachee High School