

Howdy and Aloha!

We are closing another GREAT chapter in the Allen Instrumental programs and planning for next year.

We have received a number of questions about the Spring 2009 band and orchestra trip to Hawaii. The basic information for the trip is posted on the Escadrille website, <http://www.allenescaдрille.org>, the orchestra website, [www.allenorchestra.org](http://www.allenorchestra.org), Charms and hard copies are also available in the AHS Band Office.

Participation in this spring trip is optional. It is a decision of students and parents. There is no requirement that all students attend. Some students will choose to go on other school sponsored trips, camps or family vacations in lieu of this band/orchestra trip.

The contract and early deposit is important to insure we can book air and hotel accommodations for a group our size. Parents and family members need to fill out a contract and turn in deposits as well. If a “companion package” (separate from students) is needed, based on interest and deposits, that option will be communicated at a later date.

Each year students have several opportunities to fundraise for their trips. Many students will participate in March-A-Thon, the Escadrille Garage Sale and sales fundraisers. Some may choose to raise their own money in other ways such as mowing yards, baby sitting and working.

All of our trips are educational and intended for student enrichment. This will be a unique opportunity for students to visit Hawaii and experience important cultural and historical locations such as Pearl Harbor, Diamond Head Volcano and the Polynesian Cultural Center. The Escadrille will also be representing Allen in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and the orchestra will perform in the State Centennial Anniversary celebration.

A detailed itinerary and information pertaining to all aspects of the trip will be available in late summer, however, at this time, we need to know the interest level of our students and parents so that we can prepare accordingly. Our plan is to accommodate all who are interested in participating in this enrichment trip.

Sincerely,

Anthony Gibson  
Director of Fine Arts  
Allen ISD