



**Virgil Grissom High School Marching Band**  
**Theo Vernon, Band Director**  
**Brent Harris, Band Director**  
**Performance Tour of Ireland**  
**Including Participation in the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
**March 12 – 19, 2020**

The following itinerary provides an overview of your tour events and timings.

**\*\* It is important to understand that times and activities are subject to change before or during the tour. \*\***

**Working Itinerary**

September 10, 2019

**Thursday, March 12, 2020**

**Depart U.S.A.**

**Departure**

Depart from Atlanta today for your performance tour of Ireland. Please arrive three hours prior to departure. Signed passports are required of all passengers, valid for at least six months after your scheduled date of return. A meal will be served on your transatlantic flight.



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**Friday, March 13, 2020****Arrive Dublin – Limerick**

<b>Arrival</b>	Arrive in Dublin, Ireland, clear customs and claim your luggage. Meet your Gateway Tour Manager, who will be with you for your entire tour to handle travel and performance arrangements.
<b>Transfer</b>	Travel across the Republic of Ireland to reach the western coast. You'll make stops along the way for free time, sightseeing and lunch on your own.
<b>Rock of Cashel</b>	Combining spiritual grace, mysterious beauty, and scenic elegance, the Rock of Cashel is one of Ireland's most spectacular archeological sites. "Cashel" comes from the Irish "caiseal" meaning "fortress." The Rock of Cashel rises as a giant, circular mound 200 feet above the surrounding plains and meadows. A cluster of ruins is nestled on its crown, including a cathedral, chapel and tower.
<b>Limerick</b>	Arrive in Limerick, which was founded by Vikings in 922 AD. This spot was chosen for its strategic location between the Shannon and Abbey Rivers. Over hundreds of years, Limerick was a witness to the endless battles of the Vikings and the Irish, and it was not until the 11 <sup>th</sup> century that Ireland finally took over the island.
<b>Dinner</b>	Dinner is included tonight at your hotel.
<b>Meals</b>	Dinner
<b>Overnight</b>	South Court Hotel Limerick or similar

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**Saturday, March 14, 2020****Limerick**

<b>Breakfast</b>	A full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel this morning.
<b>Cliffs of Moher</b>	Visit the Cliffs of Moher on Ireland's rugged western coast. Six miles of rough-hewn cliffs plunge into the Atlantic from heights of up to 668 feet. The ocean has hammered these walls into one of Ireland's most majestic natural features.
<b>Lunch</b>	On your own at the Cliffs of Moher
<b>Bunratty Castle</b>	Bunratty Castle is one of the finest medieval castles in Ireland. Its strategic position on the River Shannon attracted centuries of battles. It was authentically restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendor, with lavish furnishings and tapestries. The adjacent Bunratty Folk Park recreates 19 <sup>th</sup> century rural Irish life, with reconstructed farm houses, cottages and shops.
<b>Dinner</b>	Dinner is included tonight at your hotel.
<b>Meals</b>	Full Irish breakfast; dinner
<b>Overnight</b>	South Court Hotel Limerick or similar



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**Sunday, March 15, 2020****Limerick – Dublin**

**Breakfast** A full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel this morning.

**♪ Limerick  
International Band  
Championship**

The Limerick International Band Championship is one of the highlights of the Limerick St Patrick's Festival. Marching bands from the US, Europe and across Ireland travel to Limerick to perform in the competition which takes place on Limerick's main thoroughfare of O'Connell Street every year. The competition is judged by an international panel of adjudicators. 2020 will mark the parade's 50th year; making it Ireland's longest running international band parade and competition. This is Ireland's largest St. Patrick's Festival outside of Dublin and attracts thousands of spectators each year.

**Lunch** A boxed lunch is included for parade participants today.

**Transfer** Depart Limerick and head back to Dublin. The journey will take 3 hours including stops.

**Dublin** Arrive in the capital city of the Republic of Ireland. The city was founded by Vikings on the banks of the River Liffey more than 1,000 years ago. Today, the thriving metropolis is full of history and culture. During your free time, you may wish to wander around Temple Bar, an area that still maintains its winding medieval streets. You can also visit one of the many large city parks in the area or take a walk down Grafton Street, Ireland's largest pedestrian mall.

**Dinner** Dinner is included tonight at your hotel.

**Meals** Full Irish breakfast; lunch; dinner  
**Overnight** Maldron Hotel Newlands Cross or similar

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**Monday, March 16, 2020****Dublin**

**Breakfast** A full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel this morning.

**Dublin City Tour** A guided tour of Dublin includes the Georgian squares with their colorful "Doors of Dublin" and a visit to Christ Church. Visit Trinity College to see the Book of Kells, one of the most famous books in the history of the world. Completed around 800 AD, the vellum (calfskin) manuscript contains transcriptions of the four biblical Gospels, lavishly illustrated and ornamented.

**Free time** The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to sightsee, shop and explore around Dublin.

**Lunch** On your own in Dublin

**Dinner** Dinner is included tonight at your hotel.

**Meals** Full Irish breakfast; dinner  
**Overnight** Maldron Hotel Newlands Cross or similar

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**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**

**Dublin**

<b>Breakfast</b>	A full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel this morning.
<b>♪ St. Patrick's Day Parade</b>	Today is one that you will long remember, St. Patrick's Day in Dublin. Today everyone is Irish and the color green is everywhere! You will have an opportunity to view the St. Patrick's Day parade, which will be viewed by over 500,000 people.
<b>Lunch</b>	A boxed lunch is included for parade participants today.
<b>St. Patrick's Festival</b>	Choirs, comedians, international street theatre, acrobats, samba and salsa bands perform throughout the parks, squares and streets of Dublin. Merrion Square is the site of the largest traveling fun-fair show in Ireland. The remainder of the day is free to explore Dublin, shop and take in the day's festivities of the St. Patrick's Festival.
<b>Dinner</b>	Dinner is included tonight at your hotel.
<b>Meals Overnight</b>	Full Irish breakfast; dinner Maldron Hotel Newlands Cross or similar

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**Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

**Dublin**

<b>Breakfast</b>	A full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel this morning.
<b>Causey Farm</b>	Today is a day filled with Irish tradition! Participate in a sheep demonstration and try your hand at milking a cow. Everyone loves to beat the ancient drum rhythms in the Bodhran workshop and nothing like getting the energy flowing and the fun going with Ceili music. Finally, try the ancient sport of Hurling, one of the oldest and fastest field games in the world. A light lunch will be served.
<b>Dinner</b>	A farewell dinner is included tonight at your hotel.
<b>Irish Ceili</b>	Gather for an energetic evening of entertainment with Irish dancers and live, traditional Irish music. The word "ceili" originally referred to a gathering of neighbors for an enjoyable time dancing, singing, and storytelling.
<b>Meals Overnight</b>	Full Irish breakfast; lunch; dinner Maldron Hotel Newlands Cross or similar



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**Thursday, March 19, 2020**

**Depart Dublin – Arrive U.S.A.**

**Breakfast**

Grab a boxed breakfast on the way to the airport this morning.

**Departure**

Transfer to the airport for your return journey. You will arrive in the United States later today.