

PCHS Band jets off to sandy Bermuda

Flip-flops and bare feet are ready to hit the sand as the Port Chester High School Band makes its way to Bermuda this week.

While rest and relaxation on the beach may have an irresistible allure for many high school students, the band makes its journey chiefly to perform as part of the Bermuda Day festival this weekend, an annual celebration with special significance this year in light of the 500th anniversary of the island's discovery.

The band, which leaves on Friday, May 20 and returns the following Tuesday, will receive free food and lodging courtesy of the Bermuda National Education Council and participate in several music workshops around the island. The funds from the annual fundraising requirement for band members was put toward airfare.

"They all want that sunshine," Band Association President Domenic Carriero said. "They're all looking forward to a day of relaxation, but they're eager to demonstrate their talents."

Of the 103 members of the band, 88 will attend along with Band Director Robert Vitti and seven parent chaperones. Of the remaining band members, some chose not to go, others were hesitant to travel outside the country due to their illegal status and some were unable to attend because of poor grades.

Vitti said he had to

adjustments to the band's routines due to the absences but that they weren't too drastic and their performance will be "as strong as ever." The band will perform its regular field show, which is British-composer-themed and includes John Rutter's "Gloria," his version of "A Lad from Kyle" and William Walton's "Crown Imperial."

Junior Alyssa Colaluca, who plays flute, wasn't too sure about the specifics of the band's itinerary for the trip but said she was looking forward to visiting the beaches, some of which she has heard have pink sand, and swimming.

"It will be fun to just have some time to relax," she said. "I think with this trip we're going to have a lot of free time."

—Mike Delano