



Lakota East Bands

www.lakotaeastbands.org

Directors - William Thomas, Rob Tanis, Todd Hartman

Dear Gateway Staff,

Thank you for providing the trip of a life time for each and every person in our band! The students and parents are still talking about their experiences and I'm sure they will continue to reminisce for the rest of their lives. I'm not really sure how we can top this Hawaii trip!

The thought of taking 200 teenagers over 4,300 miles from home is more than enough reason to stay at home, but the staff at Gateway proposed an itinerary that was not only educational but really fun. Your attention to details was evident even before we agreed to make the leap of faith and travel to paradise! Hands down it was the best high school band trip in my 14 years of teaching!

Kate and Tammy Jo were outstanding tour managers. The rapport that they developed with the students, chaperones, and directors made the trip even more enjoyable. They handled all situations with confidence and professionalism yet still maintained their sense of humor. Our students and parents trusted and respected each of their directions and decisions. Boyd, our local guide, was also outstanding. Who knew that you could be a model and play with fire!

Stacy and Lauren organized a great parade. The performance was everything we expected it to be and more. The parade route was packed with people and lined with Tiki Torches, kind of a surreal experience. Our performance at the *USS Missouri* was truly memorable and perhaps the highlight of the trip because we had Pearl Harbor survivor Mr. Joe Whitt accompany the band on the trip. He shared his eyewitness account of the attack before we came to Hawaii which made our visit to Pearl Harbor very personal. Our students performed to honor him and all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice on that fateful December morning.

Spending Thanksgiving Day at the Hawaiian Adventures Water Park seemed a bit unusual to me, but I actually think I might miss it next year. Lying in the sun and entertaining myself on "Da Flow Rider" is a far cry from a turkey induced coma and the drone of football commentators. The students enjoyed each and every aspect of the itinerary. There was a nice balance between free time and scheduled activities.

All of us at Lakota East are truly impressed with Gateway Tours. As we plan our future trips, our first call will be to Gateway. We have utmost confidence in your ability to provide our students with a safe, educational, and rewarding experience!

Sincerely,

Robert N. Tanis
Associate Director of Bands
Lakota East High School