



## The Math & Science Exploratory School

### Middle School 447

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January 2014

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Families:

Once again, we are excited to offer an exciting adventure for our 8th graders! Students will experience the history, culture and life of Washington, D.C. during a 3-day/2-night stay on May 7-9, 2014. The experiences on this trip will enhance their Social Studies curriculum at MS 447. The trip will be facilitated through Four Winds Tours and Travel (fourwindstours.com).

Our goal is for all 8th grade students to attend. The cost of the trip will be \$365, and we are asking for \$375 per student to cover the cost of tour guide tips and first aid/bus supplies, and to offset the cost for students who cannot afford the full amount. Payments may be made in three installments of **\$125 each**. A payment plan timeline has been set up for scheduled payments. We are planning a number of school-wide and individual fundraising events to offset the cost of the trip. This will reduce the amount each family will need to pay and will provide scholarships as well. More information regarding fundraising for the trip will follow soon. Scholarship assistance will also be available (see registration form).

#### **The cost of the trip per student includes:**

- *Deluxe Motorcoach transportation*
- *2 nights hotel accommodations*
- *Entrance to the Smithsonian National Zoological Park*
- *Guided Illumination Tour of the Monuments and Memorials*
- *Visit to MLK Memorial and Vietnam Memorial*
- *Visit to museums on the national Mall (student choice)*
- *Visit to the US National Archives*
- *Entrance to the International Spy Museum*
- *Visit to the Holocaust Museum*
- *White House Visitor Center*
- *Admission to Central Park Funland for 3-4 hours*
- *2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 dinners*

*Students will have to bring money for lunch the first day*

**Chaperones:** The 8th grade teachers will be chaperoning the trip. Additional parent chaperones are needed as well. The cost per chaperone is also \$375.

**Candy Sales:** Children who wish to sell candy to offset the cost of the trip will be sent home with a 30 piece box of \$2 candy worth \$60 per box. Children will “earn” \$30 towards the cost of the trip with each box they sell. The remaining \$30 will cover the cost of the candy. For example, if a child sells 4 boxes, the cost for his/her trip would be reduced by \$120. A student who sells 13 boxes will completely cover the cost of the trip! If you would like to donate the money raised from the sale of your candy to the scholarship fund, you should make a note of that on the candy money envelope. *We are asking every family to sell at least one box of candy. No candy is allowed to be sold by students in the cafeteria or school building.*

Please return the completed Registration/Payment Form (blue), DOE Parental Notification/Consent Forms (yellow), and the Emergency/Medical Form (green) with the first payment of \$125 to Ms. Rusch no **later than February 14, 2014**. You may contact Ms. Rusch (teacherrusch@gmail.com) or Ms. Castro (jcastro10@schools.nyc.gov) with any questions or ideas. We are looking forward to sharing this exciting experience with your children!

Thank You,

Arin M. Rusch and the 8th Grade Staff