



The Math & Science Exploratory School

Middle School 447

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April 29, 2014

Dear Gr. 8 Families,

The time is almost here! Next week we will be leaving for Washington. The Eighth Grade Team is very excited about this trip and we hope that it will create educational as well as long lasting memories for all our participants. We have spent many weeks preparing for this trip with the representatives from Four Winds Travel, and we know that everyone involved will be in really good hands. This letter will provide you with some final information and reminders about our trip so please make sure you and your child take the time to look carefully through the attachments. The MS 447 Packing List for Washington is included, and you can view a detailed itinerary on our website. Please contact Ms. Rusch if you have any questions.

Behavior and Trip Refunds:

All hotel, bus, and museum reservations have been booked and paid for.

PLEASE NOTE: If your child is asked not to attend the trip due to behavior concerns or if a student or chaperone is unable to attend the trip, NO refunds will be given at this point. If for any reason your child acts inappropriately in Washington, it will be the family's responsibility to pick up their child.

Packing List

Attached you will find a sample packing list for this trip. Please limit luggage to one bag and one carry on.

Cell Phones and Electronics

Students may bring cell phones, but during the trip their use must be limited to emergencies. Cell phones provide a distraction during museum programs and workshop instruction. In the event a student's cell phone is used in an inappropriate manner or is not put away when asked by a teacher or chaperone, the cell phone will be confiscated and the family notified.

Students are allowed to bring handheld electronic games, iPods, MP3 players and/or digital cameras. Students are not to bring any laptops or portable DVD players. In addition, no one is to bring expensive jewelry. Game devices may **only** be used on the bus and in hotel rooms.

Please note: MS 447, Holiday Inn, Wade Tours Transportation and Four Winds Travel will not be responsible for any lost or stolen items, including cell phones and electronics.

Groups

All students will be assigned a bus group and a small educational group with designated chaperones. Our chaperones will be given specific instructions on behavioral expectations of students, as well as any special needs your child might have. Each night the students will observe a strict curfew of 11:00PM. If curfew is broken, it will result in parent contact and consequences will be put in place when we return to school.

Medications

If your child will be taking medication/s on the trip, please inform us as soon as possible. You must place all medications and specific dosage instructions in a labeled Ziploc bag and have your child give them directly to their designated teacher chaperone on the morning of the trip.

Trip Times and Dates:

ALL students attending the trip will meet in the 1st floor cafeteria at 7:30AM on Wednesday, May 7, for check in and attendance.

The dates of the trip are Wednesday, May 7 to Friday, May 9. We will leave the school for Washington, D.C. at 8:00AM on the day of the trip and will return at approximately 6:00PM on May 9. **Please be sure to make arrangements for the prompt drop off and pick up of your child for this trip!**

Food and Spending Money:

Included in the cost of the trip are 2 breakfasts, 2 lunch and 2 dinners. Students are responsible for their own lunch for the 1 day of the trip. They **MUST** bring a bag lunch on the first day. Student will be going to Central Park Funland, where ***bumper cars, laser tag, and go karts*** are included in the price of the trip. There are also games, batting cages and other interests that your child might wish to play which are not included. In addition, students may have the opportunity to visit museum shops and outdoor markets. They should bring spending money to purchase souvenirs. The total spending money should not exceed \$75.00.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Emergency cell phone (after 5PM)
Arin Rusch 917-826-8137

Holiday Inn Manassas Battlefield
10424 Ballas Ford Road
Manassas, VA 20109
571-292-5400

Four Winds Tours & Travels
516-334-2400

General Trip Expectations

This school trip is an extension of the classroom curriculum. When traveling away from home, we must always remember that we are representatives of our school and community. We want to leave a positive impression on the people we meet.

- Students will use appropriate behavior and language at all times.
- Students will be considerate of adults, classmates, and everyone we come in contact with.
- Students will participate in all of the trip activities.
- Students must remain with their designated group and chaperone(s) throughout the trip.
- Students will assume full responsibility for their personal valuables.

Bus Expectations

- Students are allowed to bring one piece of luggage and one carry-on bag.
- All allowed electronic equipment must be portable and activated with headphones and kept in their carry-on bag.
- Luggage must be tagged with the name of the student.
- Students are to remain seated while the bus is in route to any destination.
- Students must not make excessive noise on the bus.

Hotel Expectations

- Students are expected to demonstrate good behavior while in the hotel.
- Yelling, screaming or loud talking is unacceptable.
- Students should be dressed appropriately for breakfast...NO PJ's!
- Hotel Phones will be turned off for long distance calling. Calls to parent/guardian should be made on your cellular phone at appropriate times. **Any inappropriate phone calls using the hotel phone, including pranks, will be dealt with and family notified.**
- Students are responsible for their own valuables. Do not leave valuables in your room while touring.
- Students are not allowed to leave their rooms after 11:00PM curfew. ***If there is an emergency, contact a chaperone. If there is no emergency and a student still leaves the room, consequences will be put in place. For safety reasons we must enforce this rule.***
- All room items (e.g. towels, blankets, pillows, etc.) are the property of the hotel.
- Students are responsible for any damage to the hotel room or theft of hotel items.
- There will be no use of the hotel pool or gym facilities.

Staff Chaperones

Ms. Applebaum
Ms. Frederick
Mr. Griffith
Mr. Hagan
Mr. Kuklakis
Mr. Matulat
Ms. Rusch
Ms. Somers
Ms. Tortorella
Ms. Ward

There will also be 7 additional parent chaperones.

Warm Regards,

Arin Rusch, Principal, and the 8th Grade teachers

MS 447 Packing List for Washington, DC

(Average daytime temperatures for beginning of May are in the low 70s, and at night are in the mid-50s.)

It is a good idea to check the weather before your trip so you can pack appropriately!

What Should I Take?

2 Pairs of COMFORTABLE shoes/sneakers/boots _____

3 Pairs Underwear _____

2 Pairs of Pants _____

6 Pairs of Socks _____

Pajamas _____

Small sleeping bag, if preferred _____

3 long sleeve T-shirts or thermals _____

1 spring jacket and sweaters, and a hat _____ (It will be chilly at night!)

1 small folding umbrella, rain jacket, or poncho _____

Small backpack for the day, pens/pencils _____

Toiletry Check List

All liquids must fit into one quart-sized baggy. In your liquids bag, you may wish to have travel-sized bottles.

____ SOAP!

____ deodorant!

____ toothbrush, toothpaste, floss

____ shampoo and conditioner

____ facial cleanser

____ brush, comb

____ sun block

MEDICINE

Any medicines you take in their original bottles in a plastic baggy labeled with name and class.

GLASSES

Eye glasses, sunglasses and cases

