

28 Sept 2015

Hello 8th Grade Parents and Students!

We are excited to announce that we will be taking the 8th grade class to Washington, DC **May 11, 12, and 13**. This trip will support the social studies and science curriculums as students tour the Smithsonian Museums, the Newseum, various monuments and memorials, and much more! A copy of a draft itinerary is included below, but is still subject to change. **The cost per student is $350.00** and can be paid in full at this time or in installments as suggested below. This fee includes all lodging, activities and most meals for the trip.

**Permission Form**

It is important to note that the WCPSS permission form has changed from previous years. Please read through the entire form carefully. The completed form is due with the $50 deposit by Wednesday, November 4. When completing the *School Trip Health Information*, please note that the first box should be checked if your child will NOT need any medication on the trip, OR if your child can self-administer any needed medications during the trip. If you will be going on the trip with your child, please check the last box indicating that you will be responsible for administering any medication to your child.

**Parent and Student Informational Meeting**

If you have questions, or would like additional information, please plan to attend an informational parent meeting on Monday, October 12, at 6:00 pm in the Media Center.

**Chaperones**

We are in need of approximately 70 parent chaperones for this trip. The cost for chaperones is the same as the student fee ($350.00) and all chaperones must be Wake County approved volunteers. Please note you may register at any WCPSS school on any day from now until October 31. After October 31, registration is available on Mondays only. If you are interested in being a chaperone & for additional information, please see the attached Chaperone Information Sheet.

**Payment**

A nonrefundable deposit of $50 is due by November 4. Full payment ($350.00) is due no later than April 1. Students must **bring payments to their social studies teacher prior to homeroom** on any day that they are submitting payments.

Because payments are due to the various vendors, refunds cannot be made after May 1. Checks must be made out to “Mills Park Middle School” and the memo should read “(student’s name) 8th grade DC trip”.

We are also able to offer an online payment option. To use this service, go to <http://millsparkms.wcpss.net> and click the “About MPMS” tab at the top of the page, then click on “online payments.” (Please note that there is a 4% fee to use this service, and teachers receive notice of online payments **after** they have been made. In order to avoid over-paying, we urge parents to keep track of online payments; the system will not provide a warning if you are about to pay more than the balance due.)

If parents wish to pay in installments, we have set up these **suggested** timetables. **After the initial deposit due by November 4, payments of any amount may be paid at any time, as long as the full amount is paid by April 1.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  **Deposit + 2 Installments** | **Deposit + 3 Installments** | **Deposit + 4 Installments** |
| By Nov 4th  | $50 | By Nov 4th  | $50 | By Nov 4th  | $50 |
| By Feb 2nd  | $150 | By Feb 2nd  | $100 | By Dec 1st  | $75 |
| By April 1st  | $150 | By March 2nd  | $100 | By Feb 2nd  | $75 |
|  | By April 1st | $100 | By March 2nd  | $75 |
|  | By April 1st  | $75 |

**Scholarships**

We would like to make this opportunity available to every 8th grade student and to ensure that, we appreciate any additional money that families are able to contribute to help sponsor another student’s trip. If you would like to make a donation, please send a separate check and indicate that it is a donation.

Last year we were able to use these funds to provide partial scholarships for several students. If you might be interested in receiving a partial scholarship for your child, please contact our guidance counselor, Mr. Milner, at smilner@wcpss.net by **Monday, January 11**.

**Rooming/Packing List, etc.**

Additional information regarding room assignments, recommended packing lists, etc. will be sent home later in the spring.

If you have any questions about the trip at this time, please email your child’s social studies teacher. We look forward to a great trip!

**Sincerely,**

**8th Grade Social Studies Teachers**

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Mills Park Middle School

Washington DC

Draft Itinerary – Subject to change

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

 5:30am Board buses

 6:00am Depart for Washington, DC

10:30am Lunch: Eat bag lunch *(brought from home)* before entering Washington

12:00pm Iwo Jima Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery

 3:00pm Visit Memorials: Lincoln, Korean War, Vietnam Wall, and World War II

 5:00pm Dinner: Pentagon City Mall food courts *(meal voucher included)*

 6:30pm Visit the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial

 8:00pm Check into hotels

# Thursday, May 12, 2016

 6:00am Full breakfast (staggered 6am and 6:30am) in hotel dining room; board buses at 7:30am

 8:30am View the White House for picture stop

10:00am Newseum *(\*)*

12:00pm Newseum food court (Wolfgang) *(food vouchers included)*

 2:00pm Holocaust Memorial Museum *(\*)*

 5:00pm Dinner: Union Station food courts *(meal included)*

 6:00pm Visit the MLK Memorial, FDR Memorial and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial

 8:00pm Return to hotel

Friday, May 13, 2016

 6:30am Full breakfast in hotel dining room. Board buses at 8:00am

 9:00am Visit **Library of Congress** and **Supreme Court Building**

10:00am **Smithsonian Museum Tour: Museum of American History**

 **Natural History Museum** *(lunch vouchers included)*

 **Air & Space Museum**

 3:00pm Depart Washington, DC

 6:00pm Dinner: Fast food dinner en route *($10.00 cash included)*

10:30pm Approximate arrival time at school