

Monday, September 30, 2019

Dear 8th grade parents and guardians:

We are once again making plans for our entire eighth grade class to go to historic Washington, D.C., on a two-day field trip. Dates for the trip have the **8 White Team** departing on **Thursday, April 23, 2020, and returning Friday, April 24, 2020**. The **8 Blue Team** will depart on **Thursday, May 7, 2020, and return on Friday, May 8, 2020**. Plans include departing from the Middle School around 5:00 A.M. on Thursday morning. Students, staff, and chaperones will stay overnight at the **Doubletree hotel** in Bethesda, Maryland, and return to the Middle School at approximately 11:00 P.M. on Friday night. The itinerary includes tours of the U.S. Capitol Building, the U.S. Supreme Court, the White House, the Library of Congress, Arlington National Cemetery, Ford's Theatre, the Smithsonian Museums, the National Archives, and an evening tour of the monuments and memorials. The total out of pocket **student cost** of the field trip is **\$285**. That cost includes Martz bus transportation, hotel accommodations, all student meals, any reserved admission pricing, licensed tour guides, and night security at the hotel. In addition, our P.T.A. has generously agreed to pay for our AHMS Washington, D.C., t-shirts that the students will wear during the trip, as well as a food voucher.

To reduce the burden of an immediate full payment, the cost of the field trip will be spread out into different installments throughout the school year. An initial deposit of **\$100** is due any day on or before **Friday, October 18, 2019**. That is the final date to give your deposit. **All deposits are non-refundable!** Checks should be made payable to AHMS. The deposit will secure and confirm your child's spot on the field trip. Future payment due dates and amounts are yet to be determined. Fundraising options will be available. *If further financial assistance is still needed, please contact the eighth grade school counselor (Mrs. Bamford) at your earliest convenience.* You will receive information soon from the P.T.A. about upcoming fundraisers for the trip.

It is also necessary to point out that **your child's attendance on this field trip is contingent upon his or her good behavior, good conduct, and regular attendance throughout the school year**. In the event that your child does not go on the trip, no refunds will be issued! In addition, the following **papers are due by October 4, 2019**:

>A signature that you have read and understand the information presented in this letter and a check on whether or not your student has permission to attend the field trip. **Please keep the second copy of the letter for future reference.**

>Information for the White House security roster.

The United States government requires students' names, towns, and birth dates to gain entrance to the White House. We realize the personal nature of this information. This information will be used only for the White House security roster and will be kept strictly confidential by the school.

We are also asking for parent chaperones for the field trip at this time. However, please be aware that the **chaperone cost** for the field trip will be **\$325** for those parents willing to share a room or **\$440** dollars for those parents who requested a single room. If a team has more than the necessary parent volunteers, names will be chosen at random. You will be informed later if you are chosen to go on the trip. All parent chaperones must have or undergo the necessary three clearances- *Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance (Act 34)*, *the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151)*, and *the FBI Criminal History Record Check (Act 114)* or *the necessary waiver*. An Abington Heights parent volunteer application must also be completed and be on file. If you are interested in being a chaperone, please let us know as soon as possible. You may check the box at the bottom of this page.

If you should have any further questions regarding this field trip, feel free to contact your child's team. The 8 White Team can be reached at (570) 585-4354 or the 8 Blue Team at (570) 585-4359. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The 8th Grade Teachers

I have read and understand all the information presented in this letter regarding the 8th grade Washington, D.C., field trip for the 2019-20 school year, including the fact that no refunds will be given in the event your child is unable to attend the trip.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

My child has permission to attend the 8th grade field trip to Washington, D.C.

My child will NOT be attending the 8th grade field trip to Washington, D.C.

Optional:

I am a parent/guardian who would be interested in being a chaperone on the field trip and would like my name to put in for consideration.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____