

# Washington, D.C. 8th Grade Trip



**Tuesday, June 10, 2025 - Friday, June 13, 2025**

# **Washington, D.C. 8th Grade Trip**

**This is a school sponsored opportunity for students to expand their  
traditional school based learning  
- incorporating curriculum with real life history!**

**We are excited your student has decided to join us on this educational  
and memorable trip.**

**The Westport Middle School Administration and the  
Westport Middle-High School PTO**

# Brief Itinerary Overview

## Tuesday - June 10th

- 5:30 AM Arrive at WMHS - *Peter Pan Bus Transport*
- 6:00 AM DEPART FOR PHILADELPHIA, PA
- Lunch - *On your own*
- Franklin Institute
- Self-Guided Tour of the US Mint
- Picture of the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall
- Dinner - *Included*
- Hotel Check-In
- Revolutionary Tour—“Tales of the Macabre and Gruesome”



**Itinerary subject to change.**

# Wednesday - June 11th

Itinerary subject  
to change.

- Breakfast - 7:30 AM - *Included*
- Memorials: Thomas Jefferson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King Jr.
- Lunch @ L'enfant Plaza - *On your own*
- Arlington National Cemetery: Changing of the Guard
- Possible stop at the Air Force Memorial
- Dinner Pentagon City Mall - *Included*
- Twilight Tattoo
  - Fife and Drum Corp/National Color Guard and 3rd Infantry Regiment
- Iwo Jima/Marine Memorial
- Late Check-In at Hotel



# Thursday - June 12th

Itinerary subject  
to change.

- **Breakfast - 7:00 AM - *Included***
- **Mt. Vernon**
  - **Mansion and Grounds**
- **Lunch - *On your own***
- **Memorials: Vietnam, Korea, WWII, Lincoln**
- **Picture at White House**
- **Dinner/Boat Dance - *Included***



# Friday - June 13th

- Breakfast - *Included*
- Checkout & Depart for Washington, D.C.
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
- National Mall
- Smithsonian: Air & Space, Natural, and American History
- If Time: Capitol Hill for a potential tour or Picture with your Congressional Member
- Lunch - *On your own*
- 5PM Depart for Westport, MA
- Dinner on I-95 - *On your own*
- 11PM Arrival @ Westport Middle School



**Itinerary subject to change.**

# What is included...

## **Trip Price Includes:**

- Bus Transportation
- 3 Hot Breakfasts
- Boat Cruise - Dinner/Dance
- District Tour Guides
- 3 Nights Hotel Accommodations
- 3 Dinners (Including Dinner/Dance)
- Hotel Security
- Escort

## **Also Admission to:**

- Franklin Institute
- The US Mint
- Revolutionary Tour “Tales of the Macabre and Gruesome”
- Mount Vernon
- Twilight Tattoo

# Bus Transportation

- **2 Buses**
  - You will stay on your same bus the entire trip
  - Buses will be numbered on the front window
- **Same Gender Seating**
- **Eating is allowed on the bus**
  - Portion your snacks out throughout the trip.
    - **(NO SNACKS WITH NUTS!!)**
- **Keep buses clean - carry out ALL trash**
- **Make use of public restrooms when available to keep the buses “fresh”.**





# Bus Transportation



- **Students will sit with their partner and in the vicinity of their group.**
- **One seat the entire trip!**
  - There is NO seat changing.
  - Chaperones need to be able to quickly see who is there and who isn't.
- **Chaperones will be on the same bus.**
- **NO powerstrips allowed on the bus.**
  - They will blow a fuse leading to no AC.

# Hotels

## **First Night:**

Wyndham Philadelphia  
400 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106



## **Second Two Nights:**

Fairfield Inn and Suites  
6254 Duke Street  
Alexandria West-Mark Center, VA



# Mornings

- **We will have EARLY mornings!**
- **Encourage your students to get a good night's sleep!**
- **Students will be called 1 - 1 ½ hours before departure.**
- **This allows time for students to bathe and EAT!!**
  - Please eat or grab something to eat. We are moving all day long.
  - DO NOT SKIP BREAKFAST!
- **Students must be ready for bus departure.**
  - We need to stay on schedule.



# Nights



- **Procedures:**

- **Arrive at Hotel**
- **Students will be allowed to quickly grab snacks and drinks from vending machines.**
- **Doors will be taped every night.**
- **Same gender floors - NO exceptions**
- **Security guards on all floors**
- **Create a showering schedule between roommates.**
  - **Don't leave all of the showers for the morning.**

# What to Bring

- 1 Piece of Luggage & 1 Carry-On Per Person
- Sealed snacks for bus rides/room
  - **PLEASE NO NUT SNACKS**
- Money
- DVD's for bus rides
  - *DVD's must be approved. Please drop off ahead of time and label w/ name.*
- Cell Phones/Chargers
- Sunscreen/Sunglasses
- Deodorant
- Body Glide\*\* (*chafing is painful*)



# How Much Spending Money to Bring

- **Recommended \$170 - \$225 per student**
  - Discuss a budget with your child - Don't get caught short!
  - Have a Spending Plan for Meals & Souvenirs
  - Plan for 4 Lunches & 1 Dinner Out-of-Pocket
    - **Bring breakfast with you the morning of the trip.**
    - *Some families use the envelope system*
- **Will need money on the last day for lunch & dinner**
- **Students need to tip Housekeeping at both hotels**
  - \$1 per student for housekeeping night one.
  - \$3 total per student for housekeeping for nights two & three.
  - \$1-2 per student for bus driver. \*\*
- **Souvenirs**
  - We will visit a Souvenir Shop where students should plan to make purchases.
  - Museums & Some Vendors are VERY pricey.
  - Your tour guides will let you know the best spot to shop for souvenirs.



# Money Safety



- **Carry Money Safely**
  - Fanny Pack
  - Crossbody Pocketbook/Bag
  - Mini-Backpack
- **DO NOT keep all money in one spot**
- **DO NOT GIVE any money to people begging for it.**
- **DO NOT take your money out in front of anyone begging for it.**
- **DO NOT buy anything from people walking around selling stuff without a chaperone/adult present.**
  - There will be a set time to buy D.C. souvenirs in a safe environment.
- **DO NOT leave anything unattended**
  - (bag, wallet, phone, money, etc.)
- **The School is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**

**\*\*BE AWARE OF YOUR POSSESSIONS & SURROUNDINGS!\*\***

# What to Bring??



- **Comfortable Shoes & Clothing**
  - **All clothing MUST follow School Guidelines**
    - NO Short Shorts
    - NO Skinny Strap Tank Tops (2 finger width straps)
    - NO Inappropriate Graphics
    - NO Undergarments showing
  - **We are walking all day and night. Please stay away from new shoes**
    - **PLEASE WEAR SNEAKERS!**
  - **Clothes for cruise**
    - Dressy Casual - No strapless dresses - A thin strap is ok.
    - NO High-Heels - We will be on a boat
- **We are representing Westport Community Schools at all times!**
- **DO NOT BRING any gaming consoles - these will not be allowed**



# Cell Phones

- **Students need to carry their phones with them at all times.**
- **Chaperones will have phone numbers for their group.**
- **Chaperones will create a group text to be used during the trip to communicate with students.**
- **Chaperones will create a group text to be used during the trip to communicate with families.**
- **Appropriate phone use and conduct is expected at all times.**
  - Administration and/or chaperones can remove phones for inappropriate use.
- **Talk with your child about the importance of communication**
- **Don't forget chargers and headphones!!!**
  - NO speakers allowed on the bus.



# Groups & Chaperones

- **Each Chaperone will be assigned a group of students**
  - Chaperones will collect students cell phone numbers and set up a student group text for the trip
  - Chaperones will collect parent cell phone numbers and set up a parent group text for notifications
- **Chaperones will be on the same bus as group.**
- **Chaperones will ensure students in group are accounted for each time bus departs.**

# Luggage Drop-Off

**\*\*All suitcases MUST be dropped off on  
Monday, June 9th  
BETWEEN 4:30 and 6:00 PM  
To the Gym doors BEHIND the school.**

- Bags will be sorted by bus number.
- Suitcase MUST have a name tag on it
  - DO NOT lock suitcases
  - All bags will be gone through/checked
    - female admin/teacher for girls and male admin/teacher for boys
- Suitcases will be secured overnight at the school
- Carry-on (backpacks) will be checked morning we leave
- Any last minute toiletries, clothing, and snacks can be added to students luggage the morning we leave.

# WILDCAT TRIP HATS

- Hats are **MANDATORY - NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Hats will be handed to students/chaperones at departure
- **NO ONE** is allowed off the bus without a hat.
  - This is our way of being recognized as a group.
  - We will not have extras - **DO NOT** lose your hat!!

Thank You  
Middle-High  
PTO





# Medication & Paperwork

**\*\*DEADLINE - Friday, May 16, 2023 - No Exceptions!\*\***

- **Nurse Babb will distribute all medication.**
- **Nurse Babb will have a central location at hotel for dispensing medicine.**
- **Inhalers are to be left with the students at all times.**
  - Please make sure they leave with their inhalers in the morning.
- **Please give students any medicine the morning of the trip BEFORE we leave.**
  - Normal morning meds, dramamine, tylenol/advil, etc.

**You can download the [Medical Forms](#) from the Trip Website.**



# Fundraising

**PTO Fundraising efforts were successful again this year - THANK YOU!  
Several students funded a significant portion of their trip with our two fundraisers!**

Did you know that the cost of this trip is not 100% covered by what you pay for your student to attend?

Each year the PTO covers additional expenses related to this trip, including administrative costs and fees, advisor stipends, change fees and financial aid just to name just a few. The PTO's goal is to make this an affordable experience for all students. These costs are offset by fundraisers, we work hard all year to make this trip possible for our 8th Grade Students.

**This year the PTO will provide necessary and additional trip “extras”, including:**

- Wildcat Hats for all students and chaperones
- Bus Boxes with essential & extra supplies needed for each bus on the trip
- Tips for bus drivers (typically paid for by students)



# Water

**We will need lots of water! About 35-40 cases**

**The PTO created a [Volunteer Sign-Up](https://volunteersignup.org/KLKR7) form.**

**<https://volunteersignup.org/KLKR7>**

**\*\*Please bring donated cases of water to luggage drop off\*\***

- **Each morning we will fill coolers with ice & water for each bus**
- **At each stop students will be encouraged to take a bottle on the way out of the bus and to DRINK LOTS OF WATER.**
- **We will make sure everyone stays hydrated.**



# QUESTIONS





**BEFORE YOU**

**LEAVE**

**ONE LAST THING.....**



# Save the Date



**8th Grade Semi-Formal Dinner Dance**

**Whites of Westport**

**Friday, May 30th 2025**

**6:00 pm -9:30 pm**

**Tickets - \$40**

**Nice Attire**



**Dinner, DJ, Dancing, Photo Booth, Surprises & Fun**



**Invitations & Permission Slips coming home soon...**

# Washington D.C. 8th Grade Trip



**Time to meet your child's group & chaperone**