

Washington, D.C. 8th Grade Trip



Tuesday, June 4, 2024 - Friday, June 7, 2024

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 4th

- 5:30 AM Arrive at WMHS - *Bloom Bus Transport*
- 6:00 AM DEPART FOR PHILADELPHIA, PA
- Lunch - *On your own*
- Self-Guided Tour of the US Mint
- Picture of the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall
- The Museum of The American Revolution
 - Self-guided gallery tour and Washington's tent presentation
- Dinner - *Included*
- Hotel Check-In
- Revolutionary Tour—"Tales of the Macabre and Gruesome"



Itinerary subject to change.

Wednesday - June 5th

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 6th

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 7th

- 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:

- The US Mint
- Revolutionary Tour “Tales of the Macabre and Gruesome”
- Mount Vernon
- Twilight Tattoo
- The American Revolution Museum & Tent Tour

Bus Transportation

- **3 Busses**
 - 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
 - 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 - flat or wedges
- **We are representing Westport Community Schools at all times!**

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 3rd
BETWEEN 5:00 and 7:00 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 or clothing 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 - May 10, 2024 - No Exceptions!****

- **Nurse - Mrs. Walinski & Ms. Babb will distribute all medication.**
- **Nurses 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 BEFORE we leave.**
 - Normal morning meds, dramamine, tylenol/advil, etc.



Trip Cancellation & Insurance

Cost: \$46.00 - \$63.00

The trip is and always has been Non-Refundable.
We have no control over this.

Trip Insurance is optional.

Additional information can be found on the
[DC Trip Page on the PTO Website](#)

www.whspa02790.org/dc

Water

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

The PTO created a [Volunteer Sign-Up](https://volunteersignup.org/MQM9L) form.

<https://volunteersignup.org/MQM9L>

****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 17th 2024

6:00 pm -9:30 pm

Tickets - \$40

Nice Attire



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



Invitations & Permission Slips coming home soon...

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Time to meet your child's group & chaperone

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)
 - A few fun extra surprises... revealed during the trip!

