

NORTHMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL
2010 Washington, D. C. Trip
March Updates

Registrations

Currently the enrollment is at 313. Remember that, per the travel company, all participants must have been paid in full by the deadline of February 24. If your student has been put on a wait list or even dropped from the trip, **YOU** MUST contact World Strides and discuss this with them. 1-800-999-7676.

Cancellations

Several people have called here to cancel their students from the trip. We cannot do this at the school. YOU must call World Strides to do this and they will then ask you to send that request in writing to them. They will also give you details on refunding your money (if any) at that time. It would be helpful for your student to let the Team know so that adjustments can be made for the rooming.

Over Paid Accounts

We have many accounts that are now overpaid due mainly to fund raising money. Normally, the over paid amounts are not refunded until after the trip is completed. However, World Strides does refund the money ONLY for us prior to the trip. The refund checks will be issued on/about April 1, 2010. If you think you should get a check and do not have it by April 23, please contact Mr. Eyler.

Behavior/Medical Forms

These will be mailed to all registered participants. No student will be allowed to travel without one of these forms completed and signed in the appropriate places. Please return these as soon as possible to the TARGET teacher.

As a part of this we ask that all parents/guardians begin discussing with their student the appropriate behaviors for hotels and restaurants. In the hotel there will be regular guests at the same time we are there so the students must be on their best behavior at all times. When we eat, we WILL expect each student to clean their own area of all trash, stay seated and talk at a reasonable level (not like lunch here at school). We will be flexible with the students, but they must understand they will be held accountable for inappropriate behavior whether it's regular school discipline assigned after the trip or being sent home, at the parent's expense, for severe cases.

Fitness

Every year we have many students who struggle with the amount of walking during the four days we are gone. This is especially true at Arlington Cemetery which is about a 2-3 mile walk. To ease this problem we ask that you encourage (require) your child to start getting out and walking. As we get closer to the departure time, their endurance should increase so they won't be bothered by sore feet, joints and/or muscles. It would be good motivation for them if perhaps you as the parent joined them.

Cameras & T-shirts on the Web

The World Strides web site has offers for shirts and cameras. We have advised students NOT to buy these. We get shirts as a part of the trip price and the cameras are MUCH cheaper if you buy them here. There are about 35 required pictures that will go in the scrapbook project.

Meetings

Please mark your calendar for:

Monday, May 3, 7:00 p.m., high school auditorium

This is our annual pre-departure parent meeting at which we will cover many of the “nuts and bolts” of packing, traveling, itineraries, etc. Students are encouraged to attend, but they **MUST** sit with their parent/guardian. **PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!!!**

On Friday, May 7, all students going on the trip will go to the auditorium for a meeting with the chaperones and Mr. Eyler. This time will be spent discussing behavior, buses, hotels, meals and other last minute details about the trip.

In Closing

Our departure date is Monday, May 10 (around 9 p.m.) and a return date of Saturday morning, May 15. As always, if you have ANY questions (no matter how trivial), DO NOT hesitate to call Mr. Eyler at the high school, 832-6000. You can also check the World Strides web site (www.worldstrides.com) that has a great amount of information about security and safety steps to insure all trips go smoothly. You should also check the Washington Trip link on the Middle School's web site for all the latest news : <http://www.northmontschools.com/mswebpages/washington/index.html>

We look forward to having your student be a part of a truly “once in a life time experience”!!!!