

Remember for Washington, DC

We are going to one of the most important cities in the world. We follow their rules and are respectful of all guides, tour representatives, bus drivers, official guards, and buildings!

Preparing for the trip:

1. Follow all school dress codes. NO torn or clothes with holes, NO halter or tank tops, NO inappropriate language or pictures on clothing.

2. Bring: camera with flash (to be put in your backpack). You CANNOT use your cell phone as your camera.

Watch (worn on your arm and set five minutes ahead. We call this "Northmont Time!")

Journal and pen/pencils

Pillow and blanket for the bus ride

Spending money (\$40-\$60 is fine. All meals are paid for)

3. Bring a carry-on bag with bus gear (games, iPod/MP3, Game Boys), clothing and hygiene items for Tuesday's touring. This will be the only bag you have access to until Tuesday night. Tuesday morning we will stop, change clothes, and freshen up before breakfast. We will NOT go to the hotel. We will immediately begin our Washington tour.

4. Pack a suitcase for Tuesday night, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday needs. This suitcase will be stowed beneath the bus and will not be in your possession until Tuesday evening when we reach the hotel.

5. Bring a backpack with paper, pen or pencils. You will receive your assignment folder when you are on the bus. Put your materials in the folder and keep it in your backpack at all times. ***Girls: We do not recommend bringing purses. We, the female chaperones, are not. Instead, have money and other needed items secured in backpack and/or waist pack.

****ALL STUDENTS:** Keep your backpacks with you at all times. Remember to pick it up and put it on before leaving every stop. YOU are responsible for your possessions.

6. Hats may be worn facing the correct way and must follow all dress code rules. You will remove hats upon entering all buildings and restaurants. (This is an issue of respect.) Please remove them on your own so we do not have to remind you of this constantly. Misconduct with hats will result in the privilege being revoked.

7. Other than a refillable water bottle. Do not bring drinks in your bags. Snacks may be packed or bought later.

Arrival on Monday (May 10) evening: do not arrive before your time

1. PARENTS: busses will be parked in the west parking lot. Please do not park by the busses or in our loading area. Park at the ends of the building and walk with your student to find his/her bus. Remember these students are responsible for carrying all of their own possessions while on this trip. This is the time to start!

2. STUDENTS: find your chaperone, check in, and wait until told to load the bus. *****If taking prescription medication, it must be in its original container, Zip-Lock bag, with the parent/physician form, and marked with your name. Give this immediately to your chaperone. If you are using an inhaler, you may keep it in your possession at all times, but we still need a medical release signed by your parent/physician that explains your needs.

3. Suitcases will be stowed beneath the bus. Carry-on luggage and backpacks, pillows and blankets will be loaded by the student when told to do so. Each student has only one seat and a small area to stow items.

4. You are assigned chaperones, and you are responsible for checking in with him/her at all times, and must obey all directions given by each chaperone. The two administrators will take care of any student causing a discipline problem. They will not hesitate to call home or if any law is broken (i.e.: theft, alcohol, assault, drugs, weapons, etc.) contact the police and send the offender home at the parent's expense. Northmont personnel

have the right to search any luggage and/or rooms with reasonable cause. We will not hesitate to do this.

5. Say Good-byes and off we go.

On the Bus:

1. Stow items and settle in.

2. We have scheduled rest stops only. We will not stop at any other time, so limit drinks before leaving. There is a restroom on the bus, but will only be used in case of illness. These restrooms smell badly when used and we do not want these odors on a four-day bus trip. Do not ask to use them. At stops, you are not to purchase drinks.

3. There will be trash bags on the bus. Please clean up after yourselves. We will not leave the bus until it is clean.

4. You have assigned seating on the bus. This does not change. DON'T ASK. Love your roomies for four days, as you are stuck with them and them with you!

5. Remember that iPods, MP3's, etc. are brought at YOUR OWN RISK.

6. No flash pictures while the bus is moving. This could distract our driver.

7. Stay in your seats at all times.

8. We will show one movie on Mon. and Fri. night. Then lights will go out, and you will be expected to sleep or sit quietly.

At the Hotel:

1. Gather all bus belongings and find your suitcase outside the bus.

2. We will be giving you hotel keys and instructions.

3. We will do room inspections immediately as well as discussing emergency exits. Fire escape instructions are on the back of all doors.
4. No one is allowed to leave his or her hotel floor unless given permission by a chaperone.
5. Since no one is allowed in a room other than their own, at NO time are females allowed in male rooms or males allowed in female rooms.
6. Answer the door ONLY after you have identified a chaperone.
7. There will be guards patrolling all hallways.
8. You need to sleep because we will be touring constantly. When you are not asleep, keep the noise level low.
9. Don't leave valuables in the hotel room. Bring \$ and cameras with you and keep them in your backpack.
10. No hotel phone use in the rooms. Your phone calls home must be made from your cell phone or downstairs on the public phones. Chaperones will escort you down to those phones when time allows. KNOW how to use your phone cards or how to make collect calls. Do not promise to call at certain times, as we don't know what times we will return to the hotel.
11. *****Any damage done to your room will be paid for before you are allowed to leave the hotel. We will inspect your rooms when we arrive, daily, and before you are allowed to check out. EVERYONE in a room is responsible for the room.

Touring Washington:

1. RESPECT! Respect everyone you are with. Listen and be courteous to all tour guides on our busses, in buildings, and wherever we go. You represent Northmont Middle School; make us proud of your behavior.
2. In most buildings we will be expected to go through metal detectors and/or bag checks. Don't argue with these instructions or make jokes. The

quicker you follow instructions, the quicker we get through them. Because of the metal detectors, book bags are to be left on the bus and take only your camera into the buildings.

3. In some buildings you will be told, "no pictures/no flashes." Follow these instructions or the guards will confiscate your film.

4. This is a huge city! Stay in your "buddy" groups at all times. NEVER GO ALONE. Go to restrooms, eating areas, souvenir areas, etc. in groups.

5. Use watches to meet groups 5 minutes early. If you delay the group at any time, you will be responsible for making us miss our next stop. It is YOUR responsibility to know the time expected as well as what time it is. NO EXCUSES!

6. Avoid street people.

7. We will be walking miles every day, rain or shine. Come prepared, wear comfortable shoes, bring umbrellas, ponchos, and sun screen.

8. It is a good idea to read over your folders and know what the expectations are at every sight. Use the bus time between stops to fill in info and ideas you want to remember for later. Work on math problems and do journal rough drafts. Besides your photos, brochures provide great historic information and pictures. Brochures are available at every stop. Ask guides to help you locate areas in museums when you are confused. Maps are also available, use them. We will not accept the excuse: "I couldn't find it."

9. The use of water bottles during touring is encouraged. We do not want anyone to become dehydrated on the trip.

10. Enjoy and memorize these beautiful and historic spots. People come from all over the world to see Washington. We are so lucky to be going on this trip!

Arrival on Saturday May 15th:

1. We are expected back between 6-8 a.m. We will wake students around Springfield to call home and alert parents when to be at the school.

2. Sleep Saturday and Sunday. We WILL see you on Monday, May 17th. Yes, it is a school day!

3. Scrapbooks are due Friday May 21st, to your science teacher. Get film developed immediately!! If your pictures don't develop, get doubles from your friends. You are responsible for your photos.