

2010 WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP

Final Parental/Student Reminders

1. We will depart from the school on **MONDAY, May 10, at 9:01, 9:21 and 9:41 pm SHARP!!!!!!!!!!** Students **MUST** be in school all day that day in order to go on the trip. There should be no early dismissals since we don't leave until that evening.

Students should arrive based on departure time: Lombardi/Armstrong, between 8:30-8:40 p.m.; Kennedy, 8:45-9:00 pm; Disney, 9:10-9:20 pm.. Please do not come too early as the chaperones have other duties and will not be at the buses. No student is to get on a bus before checking with his/her chaperone. **DO NOT PARK** in any of the lots around the buses. Use the lots in front or behind the middle and high schools, then walk to the buses with your gear.

Please **DO NOT** allow your student to drink pop before we leave. We will stop twice overnight for breaks and don't use the bus restrooms. There will be no purchasing of snacks or drinks at rest stops.

2. Hotels:

<u>Lombardi, Armstrong</u> Sheraton Inn-Tyson Corners 8661 Leesburg Pike Vienna, VA 22182 (703) 448-1234	<u>Kennedy</u> Westin Hotel Tysons Corner 7801 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, VA 22043 (703) 893-1340	<u>Disney</u> Bethesda Marriott 5151 Pooks Hill Road Bethesda, MD 20814 (301) 897-9400
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We receive special consideration on hotels that most other schools do not get. This is because we have developed a great reputation with this travel company. Your students will be there for just 3 days, but our reputation will be there forever. Therefore, we would appreciate you, as parents, discussing with your student about appropriate behavior in a nice hotel setting and having respect for the other patrons.

3. Students should call you at home at night. It is much better to have them call you on the cell phone. Most hotels do not allow the student room phones to make outside calls. **Cell phones** are permitted, but cannot be used at sites or be turned on while in the bus. If you have a true emergency, you can call World Strides Tours' "**tour central**" in **Washington at (703) 933-6143**. They can then find our group and relay your message.

4. Packing. **School dress code will be in effect!!!** Jeans and shorts are permitted, but not cut up or holes in the jeans and no short-shorts or short-top jeans. No tank tops, boys or girls!!!! Girls/boys tops must be below top of pants (no bare midriff skin showing). Hats must be worn forward and removed when inside. Each student can have one suitcase that will be stowed in the bus and a small carryon, preferably a backpack. The suitcase will not be accessible the first day until we get to the hotel. Therefore, they should come dressed to sleep on the bus (no changing on the bus) and then have clothes to change into at the morning rest stop.

The weather will be similar to here, but be prepared for all types of weather. We strongly recommend an umbrella or other rain gear. It will probably rain one day. It is no fun to get wet in the morning and not be able to change clothes the rest of the day. Have a jacket as it can get very windy and cold. We will be walking A LOT, so do not have new shoes. Send very comfortable shoes and pack some Band-Aids just in case of a blister. Send a swim suit: girls can have 2-piece suits but they should be the least revealing as possible (let your dad pick it out).

5. **Medications.** For prescription meds, we must still follow Ohio law just like at school. You will need a med form filled out (see TARGET teacher or the office) then place all your meds in a clear zip-lock baggie. Hand the bag to the chaperone before you board the bus. They will have the bag at all times. Inhalers and epi-pens may be carried, but tell the chaperone. For Tylenol, Advil, etc., we will provide it, but students need a signed form from parents. Also, if there are allergy problems, be sure to take medication for this as it will be worse there than here. If there are special concerns, please call your student's chaperone in advance and discuss this.

6. Behavior. **All school policies will be in effect!!** We will expect all students to be respectful and cooperative at all times. Most of the sites now have metal detectors or hand-held wands. Many places check bags also and we must comply with all requests to do so. We will not tolerate any messing around and/or insubordination to any adult (school personnel or otherwise). Any serious infractions could result in the student being sent home on a plane **at the parents expense**. You will be notified right away if this is going to take place. Other minor problems will be handled right away and other discipline could be done after we return. Shoplifting or other criminal problems will be handled by the D. C. police department. We do retain the right to search anyone's luggage, bags or person at any time.

7. Electronics: iPods, MP3's can be used on the buses while traveling to and from D. C. Once there, these can never be used on the bus or while we walk as there will be important instructions that must be heard. Laptop computers, DVD players or game systems (Playstation, Cube, X-Box etc.) are NOT permitted to be taken for use in the room.

MR. MCCOPPIN

8. Cameras, etc. Be sure to buy film before we go. We recommend that you **do not** take really good cameras along. It would be best to buy the disposable cameras at K-Mart or somewhere cheap. It will cost an arm and leg up there!!! (There are at least 25-30 required pictures to take for the project book, so buy accordingly.) Also, there is a need for a postage stamp to mail a post card home.

9. Money. Do not send a lot of money. Send what you think you can trust your child to have. Remember, they will spend whatever you give them.

10. Students must "buddy up" for the entire trip. No one is to ever go anywhere without a buddy. If they do, then they may become permanently attached to a chaperone for the rest of the trip.

11. **Everyone** is to wear a watch and set it 5 minutes ahead so they will never be late.

12. Each student will be given an ID badge that has the World Strides Tour Central phone number. If they would get separated from the group, they are to call this number and stay where they are. Tour Central will contact the group leader.

13. Itineraries. Each day the three groups will be going different directions. All students will see the same sights, but in a different order.

14. Meals. All meals are included. Some places require a ticket and that will be given as they get off the bus at the location. Students will be told what to do at each stop for food.

15. Return. Each group will depart Washington at the same time and we should get back to the school about 6-8 a.m. Naturally, this could vary up to 30 minutes, so parents don't get worried or impatient.

Closing Remarks--Mr. Eyler

We **really** want this to be a memorable trip for the students and following these guidelines will help make it that way. Please take the time to discuss seriously with your student all this information.