

# 2017-2018 WASHINGTON DC PARENT/STUDENT MEETING

Trip dates: November 11- 14, 2017


## Trip Overview and Purpose:

- The primary focus of the trip is educational. Students are expected to willingly participate in all aspects of the trip, including guided tours, small-group lectures, and self-paced activities at many venues.
- The trip requires moderate physical activity. We walk 4-5 miles each day as the tour group visits the many venues scheduled on this trip.
- The safety of our students is our number one priority on the trip. A student participating in the field trip must be willing to tour in a group and have a team mate they select prior to the trip with them at all times, including touring, at restaurants, and walking between venues. Students must be willing to comply with the regulations of the venues we visit, follow directions given by security personnel at the venues, and follow directions from the trip chaperons.

## Traveling and Hotel Accommodations:

- We travel on motor coaches with Good News Tours.
- Hotel accommodations: Embassy Suites-Springfield, 8100 Loisdale Rd., Springfield VA (#571-339-2000)
- Students select a seat partner for the bus who is also their touring partner for the trip.
- Students also select roommates. Two sets of seat partners room together- 4 students to a suite-style room.

## Communication:

- The school's automated calling system will be used to send messages to parents.
- Parents may contact chaperons' cell phones at any time.
- FACEBOOK PAGE
  - Search for WMS Washington Trip 2017. Look for the maroon speed W. 
  - Click on "Group" and ask to join.

## Cell Phones or other devices with internet capability:

- NO cell phones. Students who bring a cell phone that is taken up by a chaperon will face school consequences after the field trip.
- NO devices with Wi-Fi or Internet capability that may be used to send video, audio or picture messaging. This would include iPads, ipods, e-readers, or other items with Wi-Fi capability.

## Security:

- Students may not go anywhere without group or seat partner, including bathrooms and hotel vending machines.
- You may not carry your book bag or purse on the tours. Leave them on the bus. Drivers remain with buses.
- Many of the places we visit use metal detectors and employ building security, often Washington DC police officers.
- Be wary of street vendors. Resist temptation to give money to the homeless. Don't flash your money around.

## Night time security:

- Our hotel provides security personnel.
- Each night in the hotel, chaperons instruct students what time to be in rooms.
- Once tape has been placed on doors, students may not leave rooms until chaperons knock in the mornings.
- If students need anything, they have been given their chaperon's hotel phone extension and have been instructed to call the room number.
- Boys are not allowed in girls' rooms and girls are not allowed in boys' rooms- **for any reason, at any time.**
- Your chaperones DO NOT SLEEP. BEHAVE☺.

## Name Tags

- All students receive a nametag for the trip that includes a picture ID and emergency contact numbers for chaperones. Students are required to wear this nametag at all times except when in the hotel rooms and to have the nametag visible on the outside of coat/jacket.

## The morning we leave: SATURDAY

- Arrive at WMS by 4:30am. Be in your bus seat by 4:50 am. Departure at 5am.
- Put your luggage in the storage area under your bus.
- Check in with your chaperone near your bus door when you arrive. Give him/her your medication.
- No house slippers, pj's, pajama pants, or sleep pants for the bus ride.
- Stay in your assigned bus seat. Bring a pillow and a blanket to be comfortable on the bus.

### **Suitcases:**

- Each student may have one suitcase (goes under the coach- no access until Saturday night) and one carry-on bag (could be your book bag.)
- Your carry-on should at least have the following: any spending money, extra socks, hats/gloves, snacks, camera.

### **Medication:**

- As you board the bus, give **ALL** medication to your chaperon, including prescription and OTC medicines a student may need.
- ALL medications need to be in a **Ziploc bag** labeled with your first and last name.
- A student who may suffer from motion sickness should bring appropriate medication (Dramamine, etc).
- If a student has an IHP (individual health plan), the plan allows certain medications to be kept with the student. Please alert the chaperon.

### **Food/Snacks:**

- All meals are included. You may bring snacks for the bus and for your hotel room.
- Drinks must be in plastic bottles with screw-on tops. NO GLASS is allowed on the motor coaches.
- No coolers.

### **Money:**

- Do not bring large amounts of cash on the trip.
- All food is included in price of trip.
- \$35 is a reasonable amount to bring if you want a souvenir shirt and to purchase some snacks.

### **CD Players, Cameras, DVD Players, Game Systems:**

- Bring at your own risk. School is not responsible for loss.
- Label EVERYTHING.
- All audio/video equipment must have **headphones**.
- You must PUT AWAY all audio/video equipment DURING THE STEP ON GUIDE TOUR. If students continue to use these items at inappropriate times, these items will be taken from the student and held by the administrator in charge until we return home.
- If you are bringing a camera, remember necessary accessories like batteries, memory cards, etc. Some locations will forbid photography (i.e. Holocaust Museum).
- No flash photography is allowed on the bus while bus is in operation. Know how to disable the flash on your device.
- Leave all gaming equipment at home- no Wii, Xboxes, etc. for hotel rooms. No personal computers.

### **Clothing:**

- WMS Dress Code (agenda, page 21) is in effect for the trip.
- Layer your clothing. Be ready for changing temperatures.
- Footwear is critical: wear comfortable, waterproof, warm shoes that you have worn before! Birkenstock type sandals, flip-flops, and open back shoes are not appropriate. Beware of wearing new shoes!

### **Behavior Expectations:**

- You represent yourself, WMS, and your family☺. You are expected to behave....but that doesn't mean you can't have a good time.
- Be quiet and respectful when the guides are talking. This also means taking off headphones when step on guides on the buses are narrating as we tour.
- Some of our guides are law enforcement officers.
- Let your Southern manners be apparent at the places we visit- *please* and *thank-you* go a long way.