

MEMO TO THE RSD17 BOARD OF EDUCATION

To: The RSD17 Board of Education

Date: November 14, 2024

Submitted for Board meeting dated: December 17, 2024

Re: HKMS Washington D.C. Trip

Purpose of the memo: Board Action - Requested Approval of a Field Trip to Washington DC for 8th graders scheduled in May 2024.

Executive Summary:

HKMS is excited to plan an enriching, three-day (two-night) field trip to Washington, D.C. We request BOE approval for the trip, which will take place in May of 2025. The trip aligns with the skills and dispositions in our Vision of the Graduate.

The Washington, DC, trip provides a unique and immersive educational experience, allowing students to engage firsthand with historical sites, monuments, and national institutions. Highlights of the tour include guided visits to the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, the Library of Congress, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Museums, and an Alexandria Ghost Tour. These experiences deepen students' understanding of U.S. history, civic engagement, and cultural heritage.

Tour Inclusions:

The Washington, DC, trip includes the following:

- Round-trip transportation via deluxe motor coach
- All admissions, fees, and hotel accommodations with night security
- Comprehensive meal plan
- Licensed tour guides and on-site staff support
- Safety provisions including a 24-hour emergency hotline, lanyards, wristbands, luggage tags, and accident/illness coverage
- Access to all tour sites, monuments, and museums listed in the itinerary

Cost: \$799 per student, financial assistance available upon need.

Additional Considerations:

A survey conducted with our 156 HKMS families yielded 96 positive responses in favor of the trip, with three families expressing a preference against overnight travel. For those not attending, alternate programming will be provided at HKMS.

Families may choose to purchase trip insurance.

CC:

Board Administrator
Superintendent of Schools

A person with long hair, wearing a blue jacket and black leggings, is captured mid-jump over the reflecting pool in front of the Washington Monument. The monument is a tall, dark, rectangular column on the left. The pool is a large, blue body of water in the center. The background features a green lawn, trees, and a clear blue sky with a few clouds. The text "HADDAM KILLINGWORTH MIDDLE" is in white, sans-serif font above the word "EXPLORE", which is in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font.

HADDAM KILLINGWORTH MIDDLE EXPLORE

WASHINGTON, DC TOUR
MAY 28-30, 2025





NATIONSCLASSROOM

We are thankful and excited to be partnering with your community! We look forward to inspiring your students through travel!

- EST. in 2008
- Family Owned and Operated
- Nearly 100,000 students inspired through travel
- Average experience of team members - 17 years



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Ground Transportation on Deluxe Motor Coaches
- Meals - Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
- All Admissions, Fees, and Gratuities
- Evening Activities
- Quality Hotel Accommodations
- Dedicated Tour Guides & On-site Coordinator
- Bottled Water Provided Daily
- Night Security in Hotel
- Accident/Illness Insurance
- 24-Hour Emergency Support
- Luggage Tags, Wristbands, and Lanyards





SAMPLE ITINER ARY



DAY ONE: May 28, 2025

Morning Departure

Lunch En Route

Arrive and Meet Your NationsClassroom Tour Guides

Tour-George Washington's Mount Vernon **under renovation OR International Spy Museum

Tour-9/11 Pentagon Memorial

Dinner Included at Pentagon City Mall

Tour-Illuminated Monuments and Memorials

Arrive Hotel

Security Reports





DAY TWO: May 29, 2025

Breakfast at Hotel

Tour-Capitol Hill: Capitol Visitors Center, Library of Congress, Supreme Court (Picture stop)

National Archives

Lunch Included

Tour-Holocaust Museum

Tour-Smithsonian Museum of choice

Photo Stop-White House

Monuments & Memorials

Dinner Included

Alexandria Ghost Tour

Return to Hotel/Security Reports



DAY THREE: May 30, 2025

Breakfast at Hotel

Tour-Arlington National Cemetery

Wreath Ceremony - pending availability

Lunch Included

National Zoo

Depart for Home

Dinner Included

Evening Arrival Home



TOUR SUPPORT: Full-Time Licensed Tour Guide & On-Site Coordinator

- Responsible for the proactive execution of the tour from the time we arrive until the time we depart
- Responsible for the hotel part of our stay
- They will make sure we have a room block separate from the rest of the hotel
- Make sure all of the rooms are perfect and all keys work
- Turn off long distance on phones and pay-per-view movies
- Work to coordinate with us to review and plan each day
- Make sure breakfast is ready
- Anything else we need related to the hotel





TOUR SUPPORT:

Night Security

- Private Night Security 9:30P to 4:30A
- All have had extensive background checks including FBI and drug testing
- Will not go into student rooms
- Security will keep people that are not a part of our group separate from us
- Will turn in a log form with notes on how the night went

Tour Central

- Available 24 Hours a day for emergencies including
 - Family Emergency
 - Lost Book Bags/Cameras

Other

- Accident/Illness Insurance
- Luggage Tags
- Lanyard and Wristband with Tour Central 800# on them

