



August 12, 2022

Dear Eighth Grade Students & Families,

Orientation trips are unique experiences for middle school students at VMS. They serve as both a transition back to the school community and an essential exercise in building community.

The eighth grade will spend two days rafting with Timberline Tours on the Upper Colorado River. This experience will provide our oldest middle schoolers the chance to build leadership skills through character and team-building activities. The class II and III rapids offer a perfect adventure for the eighth grade class. Camping will be along the river with meals prepared by VMS students and teachers. There are many areas to explore and stretches of the river where students will be able to paddle in duckies. Duckies are inflatable kayaks that are more stable and forgiving than hard shelled kayaks. Since they are smaller and lighter than rafts, they make even the smallest waves exciting. Duckies provide students the opportunity to experience the thrill of whitewater kayaking. The evening campfire session will provide a time for students to reflect on their adventures and look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the upcoming school year.

Timberline tours will pick up the students after homebase on Tuesday, August 23rd and will return the group before carpool on Wednesday, August 24th. Please note: on Monday, August 22nd, students will have a pre-trip meeting to discuss logistics and the equipment list with their VMS teachers. **Students should bring a sack lunch for Tuesday, all other meals will be provided.**

A few things we need from you:

- **Fill out the included Timberline Tours release form and return it to school no later than Friday, August 19th.**
- **Fill out the mandatory back to school forms in Veracross: [VMS Parent Portal](#).** Students will not be able to attend Orientation Trips without completion of health forms and if applicable to the student, medical forms and medication delivery to school.
- If you have not yet received an email inviting you to set up your Parent Portal account, please reach out to [support@vms.edu](mailto:support@vms.edu).

We are looking forward to a great experience on the river. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Liana Sideli, Outdoor Education Director, 970-477-7187, [lsideli@vms.edu](mailto:lsideli@vms.edu)  
Trevor Adams, Director of Middle School

## **8th Grade Schedule:**

**Monday, August 22:** Students will have a pre-trip meeting to review the equipment list with VMS teachers during the day.

**Tuesday, August 23:** Students should arrive to VMS by 8:10am **with a sack lunch** and their packed duffel bag. Timberline vans will pick up students from VMS after homebase to embark on their overnight adventure.

**Wednesday, August 24:** Students will return to VMS before carpool.

## **8th Grade Rafting Trip EQUIPMENT LIST TIMBERLINE TOURS**

**\*Timberline Tours will provide tents and kitchen equipment.\***

### **Clothing**

- Sun hat with visor
- Non-cotton long underwear top and bottom (ie: polypro)
- Rain jacket/windbreaker
- Shorts (2)
- Swim suit
- T-shirts (2)
- Water shoes (must have straps, no flip flops) or old tennis shoes that can be worn in the water
- Camp shoes (sandals or something comfortable for around camp)
- Warm hat (ski cap)
- Warm jacket
- Warm pants (ie: fleece) for camp
- Warm sleepwear
- Wool socks

### **Camping Gear**

- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad

### **Toilet Kit**

- Brush or comb
- Insect repellent
- Personal medicines
- Skin lotion and lip balm with spf
- Sunscreen
- Toothbrush and toothpaste

### **Miscellaneous Gear**

- Day pack
- Sunglasses and straps
- Water bottle
- Headlamp or flashlight and extra batteries
- Lunch/snacks for Day 1

### **Optional Equipment**

- Diary/journal
- Disposable waterproof camera
- Pens/pencil
- Reading book

**MINOR RELEASE**  
**WHITEWATER RAFTING ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE OF LIABILITY**  
**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING.**  
**THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND WAIVER OF CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS.**

"ADULT" means the undersigned parent(s) or legal guardian(s), being at least 18 years of age, signing on behalf of himself/herself as well as on the behalf of the minor child named below. "CHILD" means the minor child named below. **BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT AS AN ADULT, YOU REPRESENT YOU ARE THE LEGAL PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S) OF THE CHILD.** The undersigned agree and understand that white water rafting (hereinafter the "ACTIVITY") can be **HAZARDOUS and INVOLVES THE RISK OF PHYSICAL INJURY DEATH.**

ADULT and CHILD further agree and understand that there are risks associated with strenuous physical exertion and with participation in the ACTIVITY and that falls, **INJURIES AND/OR DEATH** may result from engaging in the ACTIVITY. ADULT and CHILD agree and understand that risks include, but are not limited to: changing weather conditions, water conditions, hidden underwater obstacles, changing and unpredictable currents, drowning, exposure, overturning, transportation to and from the river (please articulate other risks), the condition of the CHILD, dehydration, and high elevation. **RECOGNIZING THESE RISKS, ADULT VOLUNTARILY CHOOSES TO ALLOW THE CHILD TO TAKE PART IN THE ACTIVITY.**

In consideration of allowing the CHILD to participate in the ACTIVITY, ADULT hereby **ASSUMES ALL RISKS** associated with the CHILD'S participation in the ACTIVITY. Additional, **ADULT HEREBY AGREES TO HOLD HARMLESS, RELEASE, DEFEND AND INDEMNIFY** its affiliated organizations and companies, the United States, and their respective insurance carriers, agents, employees, representatives, assignees, officers, directors, subsidiaries, and shareholders (each hereinafter a "RELEASED PARTY") **FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY** and/or claims of ADULT arising from injury or death to persons or damage to property arising from the CHILD'S participation in the ACTIVITY, **including those injuries and damages caused by any RELEASED PARTY'S alleged or actual NEGLIGENCE or BREACH OF any express or implied WARRANTY.** By execution of this release, **ADULT AGREES TO DEFEND AND INDEMNIFY** each RELEASED PARTY for any and all claims of the ADULT and/or a third party arising from the CHILD'S participation in the ACTIVITY.

ADULT and CHILD recognize that helmets are required and ADULT and CHILD agree that the CHILD will wear a helmet at all times while participating in the ACTIVITY.

The ADULT represents that the CHILD is in good health and there are no special problems associated with his/her care. ADULT authorizes any RELEASED PARTY and /or their authorized personnel to call for medical care for the CHILD or to transport the CHILD to a medical facility or hospital if, in the opinion of such personnel, medical attention is needed. ADULT agrees that upon the CHILD'S transport to any such medical facility or hospital that the RELEASE PARTY shall not have any further responsibility for the CHILD. Further, ADULT agrees to pay all costs associated with such medical care and related transportation provided for the CHILD and shall **indemnify and hold harmless the RELEASED PARTY from any costs incurred therein, or any claim arising there from.**

In consideration of allowing the CHILD to participate in the ACTIVITY, ADULT agrees that **ANY AND ALL CLAIMS** for injury and/or death arising from the CHILD'S participation in the ACTIVITY shall be **GOVERNED BY COLORADO LAW and EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION** of any claim shall be in the DISTRICT COURT residing where the alleged incident occurred or in the **FEDERAL COURT FOR THE STATE OF COLORADO.**

This release shall be binding to the fullest extent permitted by law. If any part of the release is deemed to be unenforceable, the remaining terms shall be an enforceable contract between the parties. The undersigned ADULT acknowledges that he/she is also signing this release of behalf of the SHILD and that the CHILD shall be bound by all the terms of this release. This release shall be binding upon the assignees, subrogors, distributors, heirs, next of kin, executors and personal representatives of the undersigned.

**I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FOREGOING LIABILITY RELEASE, UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS, AND AM AWARE THAT I AM RELEASING CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS THAT I OTHERWISE MAY HAVE.**

Printed Name of CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Relation \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK HIGH WATER CLASS III, CLASS IV, AND V RIVER TRIPS

**Please be advised that you are about to participate in an outdoor adventure activity, in a wild free flowing river. This is not an amusement park ride, and your choice to participate in this activity involves risk.** This is particularly true for **Class IV and V** river trips, and **high water Class III (typically May and June)** river trips. The same elements that contribute to the unique character of a rafting adventure, such as "shooting the rapids" and exposing oneself to the natural elements, can cause loss or damage to equipment, accidental injury to participants, illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma or death. By signing this document, I certify that I understand the following:

- 1) *By definition, Class IV and V rapids are long and congested, and rescue conditions can be difficult. Class III rapids in high water are characterized by cold-water conditions and fast moving current.*
- 2) *Participants can be washed overboard or boats can flip in rapids, which can result in any of the below events:*
  - a. *Prolonged exposure to cold water (hypothermia) leading to impaired health or death;*
  - b. *Injuries sustained from the raft and its supplies and/or equipment, or from obstacles in the river bed, such as floating debris or rocks;*
  - c. *Mental anguish and/or physical trauma;*
  - d. *Death by drowning or heart fibrillation (heart attack).*
- 3) *Accidents can occur getting on and off the raft, or during scouting and "portaging" (the act of carrying rafts or equipment around rapids deemed unsafe to run). Portage may occur on any river trip at the discretion of your guide.*

### What is your prior whitewater experience?

Class III  Class IV  Class V  Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you swim? Yes  No

I certify that my family, including minor children, and myself are in excellent physical condition and health and are fully capable of participating in a high water \_\_\_\_\_ **Class III** **Class IV** or **Class V** raft trip (check one). If at any time I feel uncomfortable and do not want to continue on the trip or go through a specific rapid, I will notify my guide and the guide will have me portage the rapid(s) or be shuttled to the end of the trip. I understand that I can cancel my participation in this raft trip *before it begins* if I feel uncomfortable or unprepared and I will not be charged any cancellation fee by Timberline Tours.

Name of Participant (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Minor Children (under 18 years of age, please print) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Customer, Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date