

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Freshman Field Study Minimester is planned for the week of May 15-19 (may be subject to change). This trip has always been a treasured, required activity for all students at Richmond Community High School. All ninth grade students will depart from our school for a week of camping, history and ecological studies on the Chesapeake Bay. Students will experience valuable hands-on learning, make new friendships, practice leadership, and build independence and confidence.

The cost for this trip is estimated to be \$375 per person. This fee pays for all costs associated with the trip, including equipment, transportation, food, and tours. If your family needs assistance in covering costs, information on applying for scholarships will be forthcoming. However, all students will be required to pay at least \$150 which includes a **\$75 nonrefundable deposit that is due by Dec 5.** You may choose to pay the trip fee in one payment or in installments. **Payments for all students will be given via the Friends of RCHS QR code, found on the attached page.**

Additionally, your child may choose to bring **no more than \$30** in cash on this trip as we may have an opportunity to purchase a snack or souvenir when we are in one town. If you are interested in donating or assisting with fundraising to help sponsor our campers, more information will be coming soon!

Payment schedule: *Please contact one of the minimester teachers to make an alternative payment schedule if you are unable to meet these deadlines due to financial difficulties*

Installments for students paying full price	Installments for students with scholarships
\$75 deposit due Dec 5	\$75 deposit due Dec 5
\$75 due Jan 5	First payment automatically paid for with scholarship
\$75 due Feb 5	First third of balance due Feb 5
\$75 due Mar 5	Second third of balance due Mar 5
\$75 due Apr 5	Remaining third of balance due Apr 5

Please complete and return the attached **MEDICAL FORM/PERMISSION SLIP no later than MONDAY, DEC 5.** These forms should be given to Ms. Shambley (room 111). **Medical forms/permission slips will not be accepted after Dec 5. If you miss this deadline, your child will not be going on freshman minimester this year and will have to attend next year with the new freshman class, while missing their sophomore trip.**

You should NOT buy any new clothing or shoes for this trip - we will get wet and dirty, so old clothing is best. See the **attached packing list!** Pack ONLY the items on this list - overpacking will make things cumbersome for your student. Your student may want to begin gathering items now in preparation for our trip.

RCHS is under the auspices of the Richmond Public Schools, so guidelines for all items, dress, and behavior are governed by the standards written in the Student Code of Conduct. Therefore, when students depart they will **not be permitted to carry any cell phones, ipods, ipads, laptops, radios, or other technology.** We encourage you to review the code of conduct with your child as there will be **a no tolerance policy in effect. Any technology found on students will be confiscated until we return back to school (all staff will have cell phones on them for emergency contact).**

Any additional information pertaining to this experience will be sent to you as plans are finalized. We will be sending updates about deadlines, handouts, lists and forms as we complete our trip planning

process. **Thank you for all of your assistance as we prepare our students to become global learners.** If you have any questions you may contact Mrs. Schultz, Mr. Wagner, or Ms. Spencer.

Sincerely, Freshmen Minimester Committee