

EIGHTH GRADE WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP FACT SHEET 2024

1. WHO IS THE TRIP FOR AND WHEN IS IT SCHEDULED?

The trip is for eighth grade students at River View Junior High School and is scheduled for **October 30 to November 1, 2024**. We will be departing the high school at 5AM on the 30th and returning around 9:30 PM on the 1st. Students will be out of school for 3 days. Students who do not make the trip will be required to attend school as usual during those days.

- *There will be a parent meeting in October for those that are going on the trip*
 - *We will discuss more specific trip information at this time.*
 - *Emergency medical forms and cell phone contracts will be passed out at this meeting.*
 - **There are no forms to complete at this time.**

2. HOW WILL WE BE TRAVELING?

We will be traveling on the deluxe motor coaches from Urban Express Charters of Columbus, Ohio. Bus assignments will be made prior to leaving. Students will be required to ride the same bus throughout the entire trip.

- *Miss Smith will assign the busses*
 - *Students will be on the same bus as their room of 4 (that they choose).*
 - *Students will get to choose who they sit with while traveling*

3. WHERE WILL WE BE STAYING AND HOW ARE ROOMMATES DETERMINED?

We will be staying at the Comfort Inn, located in Dumfries, VA. Students will be staying in groups of four and may choose their own roommates. **Students will not be allowed to sign up until after their second payment has been made.** Roommate selection should be made carefully as no changes will be allowed once lists are generated. Bus assignments will be made once roommates have been chosen.

- *Boys & girls are on different floors of the hotel and there is private nighttime security on each floor.*
- *We do use tape on the hotel doors to identify which rooms are River View (for the security guards)*
- *About roommates:*
 - *They will be chosen in September*
 - *Must have both the first and second payments made before signing up*
 - *Once roommates are chosen, they cannot be changed so encourage your children to make smart decisions.*

4. WHAT WILL WE SEE?

There are many interesting and exciting attractions in Washington D.C. Included on our tour will be Arlington National Cemetery where we will witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Other attractions include the Smithsonian museums, a tour of the Capitol Building, a stop at the White House, the Pentagon 9-11 memorial, the Holocaust Museum (if available), National Archives, and several monuments and memorials. Two especially fun stops include the Pentagon City Mall and a dinner theater at Medieval Times. This year's students will also be visiting Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington where they will tour the house and the grounds. A sample itinerary is attached.

5. ARE THE STUDENTS ADEQUATELY CHAPERONED?

Students will be chaperoned by teachers from River View Junior High at a ratio of one teacher to every 8-12 students. In addition, each bus will have a professional tour director. At night while at the hotel, nighttime security guards will be outside in the halls all night.

- *There are places we visit where students will be able to go off in groups of at least 2 or 3 (ex. Pentagon City Mall and Smithsonian Museums)*
- *Students are not allowed to leave **ANY** building without being with an adult*
- *At the hotel, teachers stay on the same floor as students*
- *There will be 4 chaperones per bus while traveling*

6. WHAT IS THE COST?

The cost of the trip is established by the number of students going on the trip. The cost for this year's trip will be **\$575**. This number is based on having a minimum of 40 paid people per bus. The price of the trip includes all meals, transportation, any admission tickets, lodging, and nighttime security. **All checks should be made out to River View Local Schools.**

- *When sending in a payment, please make sure your child's name is on the envelope and/or check.*

7. WHEN MUST PAYMENTS BE MADE?

Because this is a fall trip, payments must be made very early in the school year. **The first payment of \$150.00 must be made by Friday, May 24, 2024.** If you would like to pay more than \$150.00, you are more than welcome to do that. **The second payment (also \$150) will be due by Friday, August 30th and the third payment (the remainder of the trip balance) by Thursday, September 26th. My final payment to the tour company is due no later than October 4th so it is essential that payments are made on time.**

- *If you accidentally forget a payment – don't panic. I do build in an oops day or two just in case.*
- *If there's a problem with a payment – please communicate with me and I will help out if I can.*
- *If you do NOT make the payment by May 24th, but your child decides they want to go on the trip in the fall, they will be able to make both the first and second payments as long as there are seats available. Last year we complete sold out the trip, so I would encourage you to put at least some money down if your child has any interest in going (even if it isn't the full first payment).*

8. OVEREXTENDED LUNCH ACCOUNT OR OTHER OUTSTANDING SCHOOL OBLIGATIONS?

If your child currently has an overextended lunch account or other outstanding school obligations, such as school fees, you will not be permitted to make a payment towards the Washington D.C. trip until these obligations have been met. If you have any questions about whether your child has any outstanding obligations or an overextended lunch account, please contact the school office.

9. WHAT IS THE REFUND POLICY?

Any money received by River View Junior High on behalf of a student from the parent or guardian becomes the agreement between the parent and the school to accept the terms of the attached contract with Prodigy Student Travel.

- *Refunds may be issued*
- *If a refund is issued, the closer to the trip, the less money you will get back*

10. HOW MUCH MONEY SHOULD A STUDENT TAKE?

Everything your child needs is included in the cost of the trip; however, there are opportunities for students to purchase souvenirs. Between \$50.00 and \$75.00 should be adequate. The kids will have the opportunity to shop at a couple locations and also have a chance to purchase souvenirs at several stops.

- *This is between you and your kids – pretty much, how much do you trust them because if you send it, they will spend it*
- *The cheaper t-shirt places where lots of kids buy souvenirs only accepts cash.*

11. WHAT IF MY STUDENT IS ON REQUIRED MEDICATION?

We are fortunate to have our school nurse along with us on the trip. Any required medication must be carried and dispensed by her. We encourage you to please send only medications that are absolutely necessary. A chaperone on each bus will have the following with them at all times: Tylenol, bee sting kits, band-aids, cough drops, and any other essential first-aid equipment.

If your student is taking any type of prescription medication at home and they will need to take it with them on the trip, you must have the proper forms completed by their doctor (this includes inhalers). Forms are available from the school office or on the River View website (www.river-view.k12.oh.us). Please have forms completed over the summer to avoid last minute doctor visits.

- *One chaperone per bus is responsible for handing out medicine*
- *Prescription medication/inhalers must have a form signed by the doctor – These can be found online.*

12. CAN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AFFECT A CHILD'S PRIVILEGE OF GOING ON THE TRIP?

The answer is absolutely yes. Infractions which generate a suspension from school will be considered very serious and will be reviewed by a faculty committee to determine a child's trip status. The timing of an infraction may also result in a reduced refund or no refund at all.

13. WHAT ARE OUR GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS?

First and foremost, we want every child to have a safe and fun journey. For some students, this is their first time away from mom and dad while for others, this will be their first time out of the state. We are sure to experience lots of new things and have lots of excitement. The students are expected to follow all school rules including dress code. They are also required to be with their chaperones at all times and to stay in their rooms after lights out. Students are not permitted to use the hotel room phones. Cell phones may be used with guidelines that will be addressed at the second parent meeting in October.

14. OTHER ODDS AND ENDS OF INFORMATION

- Fundraisers
 - Due to summer, we do not have a school fundraiser for the DC trip...there just isn't enough time to make it happen
- Paperwork
 - There is no forms or paperwork to fill out at this time
 - Simply making the first payment is signing up for the trip
 - Emergency medical forms and cell phone contracts will be passed out at the parent meeting in October.

- Cell Phones

- Cell phones will be allowed on the trip, however there will be certain rules the kids have to follow in order to keep their phones during the trip.
- Kids & parents must sign a contract with me saying they will follow the trip rules about phones, as well as the district's acceptable use policy.
 - The trip rules basically tell students where they can and can't use their cell phones.

14. CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, our world has changed, and planning a trip is more of a challenge now than it has been in the past; however, I firmly believe that we must not let that stop our children from engaging in this once in a lifetime experience. I have every confidence in Prodigy Student Travel and know that we will have a wonderful trip.

If you have any questions or concerns, please leave a message for me at school by calling 740-824-3523 or e-mail me at heather.smith@rvbears.org

Sincerely,

Heather Smith

Heather Smith, Trip Coordinator