

8th Grade Civics Trip to Washington D.C.

School Committee
Presentation & Proposal
June 17, 2024



Topics

- Background
- Proposal & Rationale
- Reflections & Considerations



Central Photo, Inc.
Washington, D.C.
202-544-0065

Ephraim Curtis Middle School
Touring Washington, D.C. May 2024

ACADEMIC
EXPEDITIONS

Background

In June 2018 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released a revised curriculum framework for History and Social Sciences, which puts a greater emphasis on civics across all grade levels. On November 8, 2018, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker signed bill S2631, an Act to promote and enhance civic engagement in Massachusetts students. The goals of this law are, in part, to increase voter participation (especially at the local level), increase people's engagement in community service work, and inspire citizens to protect and promote our democratic institutions. This new law requires eighth-grade students to participate in at least one student-led, non-partisan civics project. The 8th grade curriculum has a direct focus on government and civics, with topics including: the philosophical foundations of the U.S. political system, the development and institutions of the U.S. government, rights and responsibilities of citizens, the Constitution, Amendments and Supreme Court decisions, and the freedom of the press and news/media literacy.

Summary of Grade 8 Curriculum:

Students study the roots and foundations of U.S. democracy, how and why it has developed over time, and the role of individuals in maintaining a healthy democracy. They study these topics by exploring guiding questions such as, “How have concepts of liberty and justice affected the United States democratic system of government?” and “How can power be balanced in government?”

Details

Company:	Academic Expeditions
Dates of Travel	May 13-16, 2025
Cost:	\$1,300
Deposit:	\$130 (10%)
Payments:	Pay in full 3 installments (\$390) Payments at will Auto payments not available
Scholarships:	14 full scholarships courtesy of AE
Additional Insurance:	2 options ~ \$15 / \$60 1) qualified, documented reason 2) cancel for <i>any</i> reason + up to 48 hrs. w/ 75% refund
Meal Allotments:	Preloaded debit cards
Cost Information	Cost all-inclusive (w/ gratuities), overnight security, tour guides, access to medical facilities, housing, dining, itinerary, fees, transportation, T-shirts, educators as chaperones, lanyards, Frozen Fundraiser

Sample Itinerary

Day 1

Depart early morning
Lunch at rest stop
Dinner
9/11 Memorial
Check-in

Day 2

Breakfast buffet at hotel
Capitol Tour
Library of Congress
Supreme Court
Lunch
Holocaust Museum OR
NMAAHC
Dinner
Lincoln/Korean
War/Vietnam Memorial



Sample Itinerary

Day 3

Breakfast buffet at hotel
Arlington Nat'l Cemetery
Iwo Jima Memorial
Holocaust Museum OR
NMAAHC
National Archives
Dinner & Entertainment

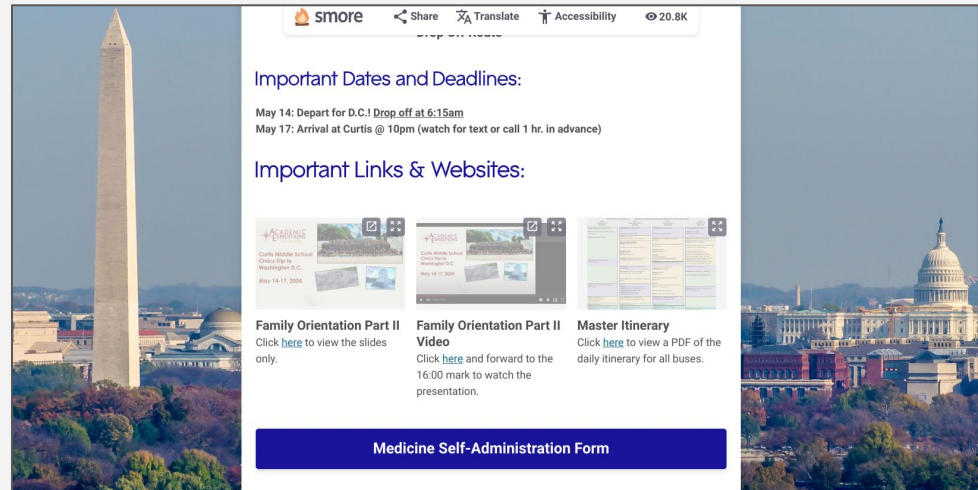
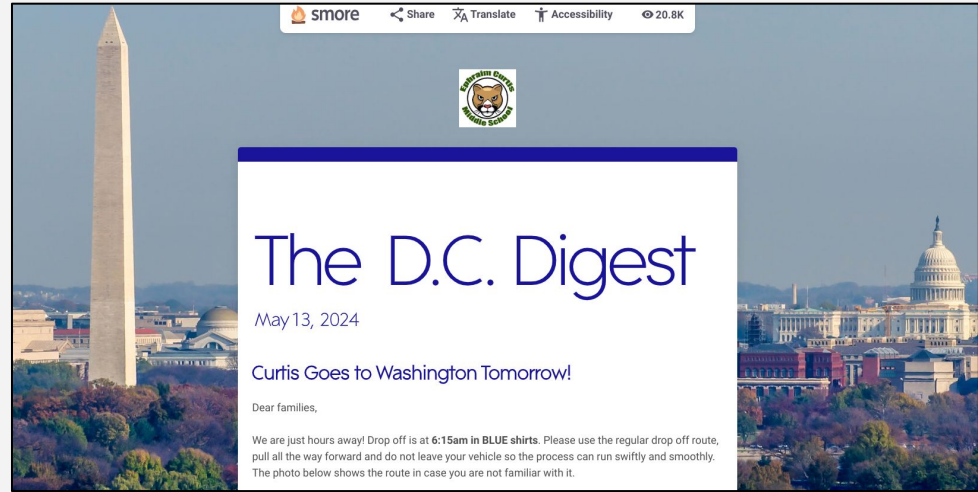
Day 4

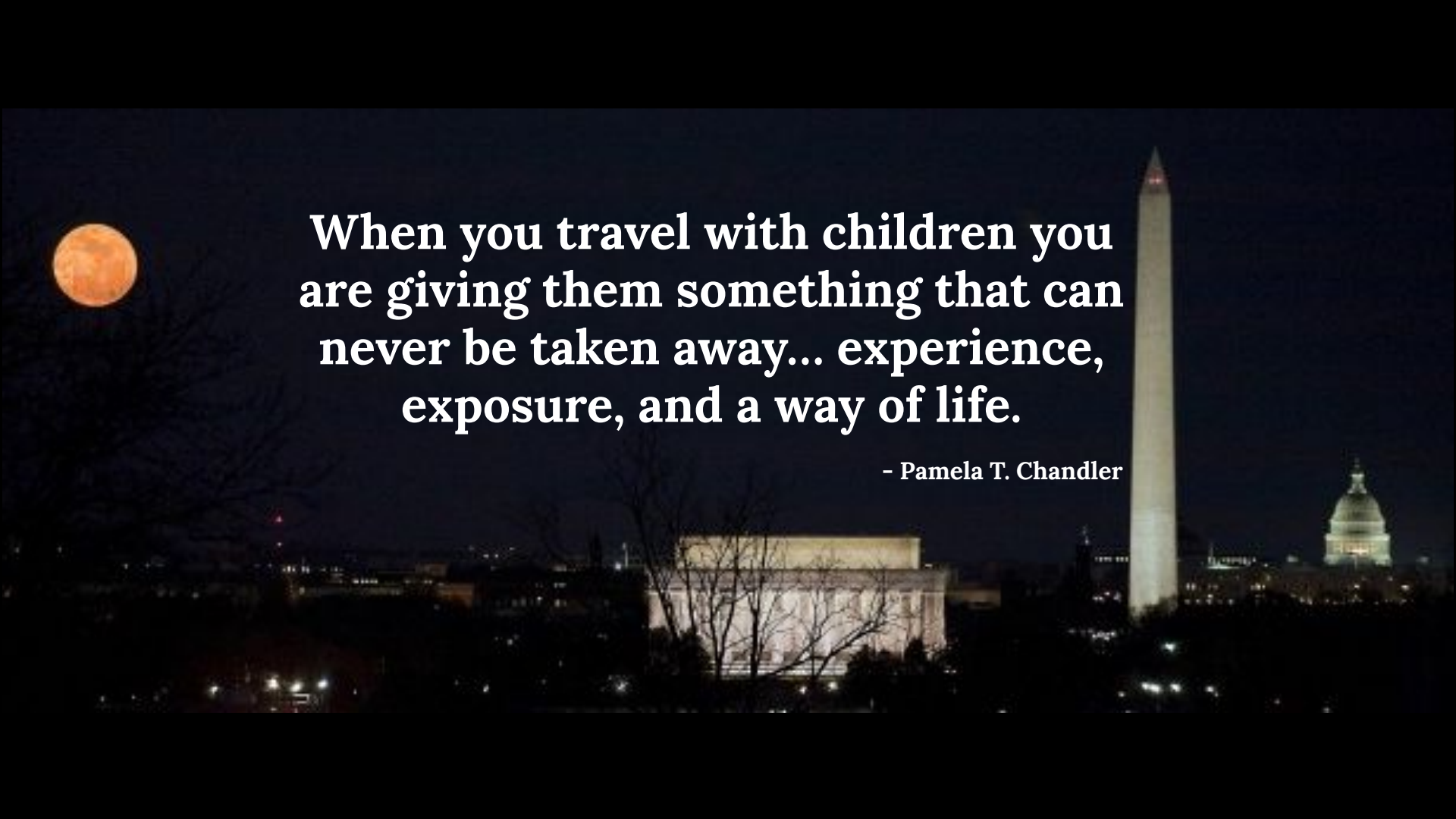
Breakfast buffet at hotel
Whole Group Photo
Smithsonian Museums
Lunch on the Mall
Depart
Dinner at rest stop



Communication

- 2 family orientations in September & April
- 3 student assemblies in September, January, and May
- Schoology
- Blackboard
- D.C. Digest Newsletter





**When you travel with children you
are giving them something that can
never be taken away... experience,
exposure, and a way of life.**

- Pamela T. Chandler