



Shiloh Middle School Washington DC Trip 2026
May 20 - 22, 2026

All 8th grade students are invited to join us for our Shiloh Middle School Washington D.C Trip 2026. This packet has all the information you may need to have a successful trip. Contact information for the 8th grade DC Coordinators is also included should you have any questions during the year. As we get closer to the trip, the exact hotel information will be posted/sent home etc. as well as other information reminders and pertinent information.

Please sign and return the last page after you and your student have read over all the information.

Thank you and we look forward to an awesome trip this year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dawson - dawsonh@parmacityschools.org

Mr. Mealy - mealyd@parmacityschools.org

Here are some quick Washington DC Trip FAQs:

When are we going to Washington D.C.? Wednesday, May 20, 2026 to Friday, May 22, 2026

How much will the trip cost? This year's trip will cost \$570.00 per student. The cost of the trip covers the student's transportation, hotel room, food, and tickets to various sites.

How can I reserve a ticket for my child? The trip is open to the first 90 students who pay the first deposit and code of conduct form signed. Once those buses are filled, we will start a waiting list.

When will the down payment of \$285 be due? Down payments will be collected Monday, November 10 to Friday, November 14. We will be stationed by the steps each morning before school. Students, please make sure payments are made at that time, not during the actual school day. You will be given a receipt and the medical forms that need to be filled out as soon as possible and return no later than the last payment. Parents are allowed to drop off payments at this time as well. *All payments are nonrefundable.*

When will the second payment of \$285 be due? The balance of the trip will be collected between Monday, February 9 to Friday, February 13. Again, we will sit by the steps each morning. Make sure the medical forms are returned no later than this date. Parents are allowed to drop off payments at this time as well. *All payments are nonrefundable.*

What are some of the possible sites that we will be visiting this year? We will be driving right into Washington DC on day one. Some sites we will visit on our trip are: Arlington National Cemetery (Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Changing of the Guard), Memorials (Vietnam, Lincoln, World War II, Korean, Martin Luther King, FDR, Jefferson, Iwo Jima, Pentagon), The White House and Capital as well as Smithsonian Museums. The last day we will visit Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate. Attractions and times may need to be adjusted because of weather or unforeseen circumstances, but we will try to fit in as much as we possibly can! There is always something to see or do in DC!

How can I find out more information about the trip? For information about the trip please come to the parent meeting on Wednesday, October 1 at 5:30 pm. Information will also be sent via email and home with your child throughout the year.

Who can I contact about the trip? Please contact trip coordinators if you have questions. Halle Dawson (dawsonh@parmacityschools.org) or Dave Mealy (mealyd@parmacityschools.org).

Additional information

What are the important dates and times my child and I should know?

Students will report to Shiloh Middle School on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 6:15 AM through the front doors. Students should check in with their bus teachers in the cafeteria. Any students traveling with medication must be checked in with the trip nurses. All student luggage will be subject to search.

Students will be returning from the trip on Friday, May 22, 2026 around 8:30-9:00 pm.

Depending on traffic. Students will be asked to call or text their parents when we are about an hour from home. Buses will drop students off at the front of Shiloh Middle School gather their luggage and walk to the side parking lot. Please have your child's ride waiting upon our arrival.

Where will my child be staying during the trip?

Students will have the opportunity to stay close to all of their favorite Washington D.C. sights and to enjoy the accommodations at a **Hotel in the near DC Area**. As of now our hotel will be the [Hilton Garden Inn in Fairfax, VA.](#)

The safety of your child is our great concern. In the interest of safety, all students must remain in their own room at all times. Students will be instructed not to open their doors for anyone unless they know the trip password. Additional tenable **night-time security will be present outside of student rooms**. Phones in the hotel rooms may be used only for 911 emergency calls. Students will be allowed use of their cell phone at their hotel room and on buses.

Who will the students' roommates be?

Students will be permitted to select three (3) additional roommates and bus partners in March. However, DC staff reserves the right to assign roommates and bus partners prior to or during the trip. Once assigned, roommates may not be adjusted so please be sure to complete the form and choose wisely. This form will be given to students in February. They may have students from either house as a roommate. Roommates and bus partners are the same. Everywhere we travel students will need to travel as one unit, so again choose someone you know you get along with well.

How will my child be traveling to and around the Washington D.C. area

Students will enjoy a comfortable ride on Great Day Tours Charter Buses. The buses provide comfortable seating, DVD players, and other amenities for the students to kick back, relax, and enjoy the trip. Some have chargers. Wifi is not guaranteed, especially driving through the mountains.

Who will be chaperoning the Washington DC trip?

The Washington D.C. trip is only made possible by the willingness of the Shiloh Middle School staff to travel as chaperones during the trip. In addition, to assure the safety of your child, we will

also be traveling with professional medical, administrative personnel, and school resource officer.

What if my child requires medication during the trip?

If your child takes medication or has a health issue, please indicate the medication and dose on the medical form. Forms will be handed out when the first payment is collected in November. They may be returned to Mrs. Dawson at any time, but no later than with your final payment in February. If you need a new one they will be posted online or have your student ask for one if they have lost theirs. **ALL FORMS ARE TO BE FILLED OUT ON PAPER** and due with your final payment in February. These forms **MUST** be returned to Mrs. Dawson with your second payment. If medications change, a new form must be filled out. If students are taking a prescribed medication, the form **MUST** be signed by a doctor.

Packing Medications- All medication must be in the prescription bottles or original packaging and placed in a **plastic bag** with your child's first and last name and bus number written on the bag. **Medications need to be brought in no later than our parent/student meeting on Thursday, May 14th.** Our nursing staff will ensure that your child receives all of their medications when needed. Upon return to Shiloh, please see the nurse to retrieve any leftover medication.

What type of luggage should my child pack?

Students should bring clothes and toiletries for two nights and three days. Since they must carry their own belongings, students are encouraged to pack only what they need. Students should bring a suitcase containing clothing and toiletry items. This suitcase will be placed within the bus luggage containers and cannot be retrieved during the trip. Students may also bring a small carry on bag containing personal items they would like to bring on the bus trip. Please be aware that students are responsible for all valuables. Please do not bring expensive items such as laptop computers, large gaming units, etc.

When we tour our nation's capital, we represent Shiloh Middle School and the City of Parma. Both comfort and appearances are very important. We will be visiting some of the grandest buildings and most solemn memorials in the world. Your appearance should reflect a respect for our national heritage and set the tone for proper behavior. **Students will receive a Shiloh Middle School Washington D.C. t-shirt to wear on the second day of the trip. Students will also be given and be required to wear hats. The caps are part of our overall safety plan and allow us to easily identify students within our group.** Washington DC is very warm in the spring. Students are encouraged to wear loose fitting cotton clothing. During the trip we will be visiting many places in which proper attire is required. Shiloh Middle School dress code rules apply to all students attending the trip. Students must wear comfortable shoes as we will be walking several miles per day.

What should my child wear during the trip?

Dress Code for Touring in DC

GIRLS - What TO Wear	GIRLS - What NOT TO Wear
• Comfortable shoes or tennis shoes for walking or running • Dress shorts with pockets (fingertip length) or Jean Shorts with pockets (no rips or tears, also fingertip length) • Capris, Bermuda shorts, or Khaki pants with pockets • Shirts of any kind without writing • Any Shiloh Gear (with writing is okay) • Light jacket or hoodie • Rain Poncho (disposable sold at drugstores) • Your cool DC hat you are given	• Brand new shoes, flip flops, sandals, high heels or slides or slippers • Jeans or shorts with rips/tears or cut offs • No basketball, athletic shorts • Shirts with writing or logos on them • Spaghetti strap tops/tube tops • Tops that show midriffs • No dresses or skirts • Sweatpants

BOYS- What TO Wear	BOYS- What NOT TO Wear
• Comfortable shoes or tennis shoes for walking or running • Dress shorts with pockets • Cargo shorts with pockets • Jean shorts with pockets Bermuda length • T-shirts or Polo shirts without writing/ logos • Any Shiloh Gear (with writing is okay) • Light Jacket or hoodie • Rain Poncho (disposable sold at drugstores) • Your cool DC hat you are given	• Brand new shoes, sandals, slides or flip flops • Sagging Jeans or Bermuda jean shorts that are ripped/torn or cut off • No basketball or athletic shorts/pants • Tank tops or sleeveless shirts • Shirts with any kind of writing or logos • Sweatpants

~ If you are not in Dress Code you will be asked to change your clothes ~

What if my child is wearing something that is not permitted on the trip?

If students are found wearing unacceptable clothing such as sagging jeans, gym shorts, sweat pants, high heels, flip flops, short shorts, provocative clothing, garments with rips or holes, clothing with a message other than one pertaining to Shiloh Middle School, then students will be directed to change into either their own appropriate clothing.

We have changed the dress code to allow jeans however they can not have any rips, tears or holes in them and they must look business casual. However be aware DC can be very hot and humid even in May and jeans may not be the best choice for touring.

Can my child bring personal electronics on the trip?

Please be aware that students are responsible for all valuables. Please do not bring expensive items such as laptop computers, school chromebooks, large gaming units, etc. Students may bring cell phones and small handheld gaming units. Audio and video files played on these devices must be school appropriate. No rated R materials.

All students are encouraged to bring cell phones for safety reasons and easy communication. A cell phone can also be used as a camera as well as a way to learn even more information about each attraction we visit. Cell phones are also the only way for students to communicate with their parents. Make sure charging cords are packed in the carry-on bag. Students should be sure to have a watch or time telling device during the trip if they do not have a cell phone. When filling out roommate forms all cell phone numbers will be given for extra insured safety reasons. We will also use a Remind app or similar cell phone app to communicate or give instant information/reminders to students. Chaperones do reserve the right to confiscate phones if they are not being used properly.

What will my child be eating on the trip?

Students will be fed well throughout the trip. **Students are only permitted to bring bottled water on the bus.** Soft drinks of any kind (unless for health reason) including energy drinks/coffees, etc., chocolates, or messy/sticky food items on the bus. Hard candy and crackers, chips, granola bars, rice cakes, cookies, etc. make good snacks. The buses will be stopping for bathroom break approximately every 3 hours. Students will receive several delicious meals per day as part of the cost of the trip. Students are welcome to bring extra snacks for their hotel room or on the bus. Please discuss with your child the dangers of overeating during a long bus ride to avoid any illness. Also making sure they use the bathroom at stops when we make them.

How much money should my child bring on the trip?

Your child can attend the trip without bringing any extra money. Your ticket and registration covers all transportation, food, lodging, tickets and touring fees. However, students may wish to purchase souvenirs and extra food at meal times. To minimize possible losses, it is recommended that students do not carry a lot of money. Students may buy **school appropriate**

souvenirs at scheduled times during the trip. Street vendors tend to have the best prices (They are less than the museums) but we do these as a group so they can be watched and that vendors don't cheat the students. Most students typically bring \$50 extra or more. You can make the decision that you feel is appropriate. They are responsible for extra money that they bring.

How should my child behave?

Safety is our number one concern during the Washington D.C. trip. To ensure a smooth and safe experience for your child, some long standing procedures and expectations must be observed.

Prior to departing for the D.C trip, it is important that all students remain in good standing here at Shiloh Middle School. Raiders are expected to have "Respect", "Be Ready to Learn", and to be "Responsible" while they are at Shiloh Middle School and beyond. Students who engage in inappropriate behavior at school prior to the trip may be removed from the trip by the trip coordinators or administrators. In such cases all money paid is nonrefundable.

What rules will apply for the students during the trip?

It is expected that while on the trip all students will follow all Shiloh Middle School rules, established DC Trip expectations, and to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen during the trip to earn the respect of the people who are observing us. It is our hope that students will always remember the significant meaning of the tour and the reverence with which students should visit the many historical areas on our trip.

1. **Follow Directions at all times:** Throughout the trip, the DC staff will be giving students directions. It is imperative that students listen to and follow these directions to ensure a smooth trip and the safety of the students on the trip.
2. **Students are expected to show respect for all adult staff members on the trip.** In the interest of safety and order, students may not argue with or ignore staff members. Staff members will proceed with reasonable expectations based on conditions throughout the trip. These expectations will be clearly communicated to the students.
3. **Students are expected to have excellent behavior on the bus.** Staff members on each bus will inform students of their individual expectations. Students who misbehave on the buses or during the trip will be subject to consequences from bus teachers and trip administration. Students should remain in only their assigned seats. Bus windows are to be kept closed. Nothing should ever be tossed out of the windows. Students should never direct inappropriate comments or gestures toward pedestrians, motorists, or the bus driver. This is in poor taste and is dangerous. Remember, no liquids or messy foods are permitted on the bus. **NO Flash photography or alerts on cell phones or laser pointers are to be brought or purchased on the trip due to safety concerns.**

4. **Throughout the trip students must remain in proper attire as described above.**
Students who do not comply with the dress code will be asked to change their clothes. There will be no time or place to change before beginning our sight seeing so students must arrive at Shiloh Middle School in dress code at the start of the trip. They must come to breakfast each morning in dress code as well. Students will not be permitted to tour with the group if they are not in dress code. For safety purposes, students must wear their hats at all times when touring.
5. **While touring various sights during the trip, students will be informed of specific directions and expectations for that attraction. Students are expected to be on their very best behavior as we tour.** Loud talking, shouting, improper language, pushing, etc. are not appropriate behavior. Please be aware that some attractions will require very high security checkpoints. Students will be told to try to travel lightly as we get on and off buses. Try to have pants with pockets, small fanny pack or small crossbody type purse if necessary. This will streamline security checks. (students can bring and keep a small bag on the bus in between touring to hold snacks, headphones, sunscreen, etc. The bus will be locked when we are not on it. Fine table manners are encouraged and are to be practiced when dining at the hotel or other public places. Students should be polite to wait staff and not make a mess in their table area. **Students may use headphones on the bus and in the hotel room only. Airpods/headphones are not allowed at all during touring because of traffic and other safety concerns. Students need to be able to hear properly, be aware of their surroundings and listen for directions. Headphones should be put away securely while students are touring the sites.** Students should respect the property and rights of everyone on the trip.

Mark Your Calendar!

There will be a mandatory parent and student meeting on Thursday, May 14th at 5:30 pm to drop off medications and/or water or snack donations, as well as discuss expectations for the Washington DC trip.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN this page with the first payment in November.

SHILOH MIDDLE SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DC TRIP- 2026

Teachers plan and prepare all year to make this a successful trip for your child. The Washington DC Trip has been a Parma City Schools tradition for over 60 years. In the past we have had many museums, government and military agencies compliment our school on their dress, respectful attitudes and conduct while touring. We are proud to include your student in this timeless district tradition! In order to attend the Washington DC trip students are expected to exemplify what it means to be a Shiloh Raider throughout the school year. These include The Raider code of conduct- The Three R's- being respectful to others, responsible for themselves and their actions, and ready to learn. In all aspects of school and activities related to it. In the event that a student is not following the Raider Code of Conduct they will be removed from the trip at the discretion of the House teachers and Principals. Students who have had more than three office referrals for various reasons and/or have had two in/out of school suspensions, and /or more than 10 days of unexcused absences or tardies may be subject to probation and/or removal. Students with less than an academic grade point average below 1.5 are also subject to removal from the trip. Please note if a student is removed from the trip all deposits and/or monies paid will be forfeited and non-refundable. Because all buses, hotels, tickets for events and food vouchers are pre-paid in advance Shiloh Middle School is unable to get refunds from these vendors due to any canceled reservations.

By signing this page, I am affirming that I have fully read and understand the terms of this agreement and understand that if my student is removed from the trip or decides to not attend for any reason, (other than medically excused) all money paid is forfeited and non-refundable. I have also read and understand the expectations and guidelines for the trip within the packet and look forward to a great trip in DC!

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Student's Name Printed _____

Date _____

Please sign and return just this last page to Mrs. Dawson with first payment.