

Washington D.C.

NOVEMBER 4th, 5th and 6th, 2026

**South Woods
Middle School
8th grade**

***Information and
Expectations***



MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Students **MAY NOT** carry their own medication,
(including Tylenol/Advil/Allergy/etc.)

The student's physician **MUST** sign forms for any
medication that your child may require on the trip.

Self carry medications are **limited** to Epi Pens, Inhalers,
Insulin/Diabetes Supplies (separate form).

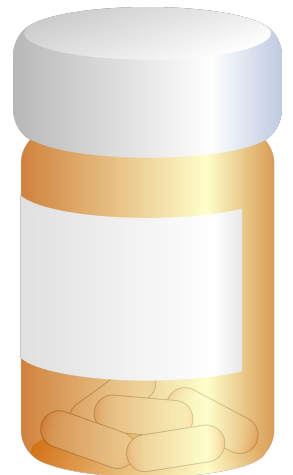
*Any medication form that has been completed will be kept
in the nurse's' office until June of 8th grade year.*

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Medication, including over the counter medication, must be submitted in its original container with the appropriate medical form.

All medication were due to the health office by 10/1/26.

Please contact the SW Health Office with any questions.



Dietary Concerns

(allergies, vegetarian, gluten, etc.)

**If your child has a dietary concern,
you should have listed this during
registration with **Gerber Tours**.**

*We will accommodate any concerns we
are made aware of **prior to the trip.***

EXPECTATIONS

Unsafe items are prohibited on the trip.
(drugs/alcohol/vapes/weapons/cigarettes/
e-cigarettes/knives/multi-tools/etc.)

Chaperones and administrators will conduct **bag and hotel room checks as necessary** to ensure that students are complying with all of our school rules and guidelines.

Harassment is prohibited on district property, district transportation, electronically, and at school-sponsored activities.

EXPECTATIONS

The school dress code applies on the trip.

Students who break the rules on the trip will be subject to consequences, including removal from the trip and parent pickup in Washington, D.C.

Transportation Information



- Our bus company is **Hampton Jitney**. **All HJ buses have seatbelts.**
- **All charter bus passengers 8 years of age or older are required to wear a seatbelt on a coach bus - this is NY state law.**
- Before departure, a pre-trip inspection of each bus is conducted to ensure that:
 - there is a valid inspection.
 - the bus registration is current.
 - the bus insurance card is current.
 - the driver's name matches our records.
 - the route matches our trip.
 - the driver log shows at least 8 hours since the driver's previous trip.
 - the driver reviews all emergency procedures and safety regulations with the students on the bus.

The inspection form includes an attestation:

"THE DRIVER HAS PERFORMED THE STATE MANDATED PRE-TRIP INSPECTION OF THIS VEHICLE TODAY AND FOUND NO DEFECTS."

CELL PHONES and SOCIAL MEDIA

- Cell phones are permitted on the trip and **may be used at the discretion of the chaperones/bus leaders.** Students are reminded to exercise good judgement and digital citizenship.
- Students participating in the trip have an **EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY** that is covered both by our **Code of Conduct and the law.** Students may NOT photograph or videotape others without their express consent. Any student who compromises another's privacy through the use of an electronic device and/or otherwise violates the **Code of Conduct or Dignity for All Students Act** will be removed from the trip.
- **Selfies** at memorials and attractions commanding honor and respect (i.e. the Vietnam Memorial) are inappropriate and **NOT PERMITTED.**

Syosset CSD Cell Phone Survey

- As part of our safety and communication measures for upcoming middle school field trips, the District is requesting that you provide your 8th grader's cell phone number (if they have one), and permission for it to be used for field trip-related communication and in the event of any emergency during the trip.
- Phone numbers will be entered into your child's Infinite Campus account and allow for the ParentSquare (StudentSquare) platform to be used to communicate via cell phone with your child. Upon graduation from Syosset, student cell phone records are deleted from our records.
- A permission slip has been sent to your Infinite Campus account in the Message Center.
- ***There was an error with the form, the district is currently working to fix the issue***

Login to StudentSquare!

- We will be using StudentSquare for group communication during the trip.
- **Sign in on your Chromebook!**
- [Click this link and login with Microsoft](#) using your school credentials – or use the activation link in your school e-mail!
- At home, download the app on your phone using the QR codes below or searching “ParentSquare” in the app store.

Download the app!



Sign In

Email or Phone Number

Password

[Forgot password?](#)

Sign In

OR

 Sign In with Google

 Sign In with Microsoft



Gerber Tours

The Student Travel Experts



A Gerber Tours
representative
will be with us in D.C.!

Each bus will have their own
tour guide who is employed
by Gerber Tours.

**Wednesday begins
bright and early
at SWMS!**

5:30 AM Arrival



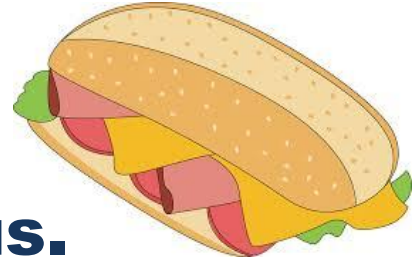
**Back to
Syosset Friday
approximately
Between 6:30-7pm
(depending on traffic)**



BRING BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR DAY 1 (Wednesday) to EAT ON THE BUS.



There is a bathroom on the bus.



**We will make ONE stop in Delaware to use
the bathroom only - no food purchases.**



Dinner Day 1 (Wednesday Evening)

Send CASH or connect Apple Pay to your child's phone for them to pay for dinner on Wednesday evening. We will be eating at the Pentagon City Mall Food Court.



ROOMMATE AND BUS ASSIGNMENTS

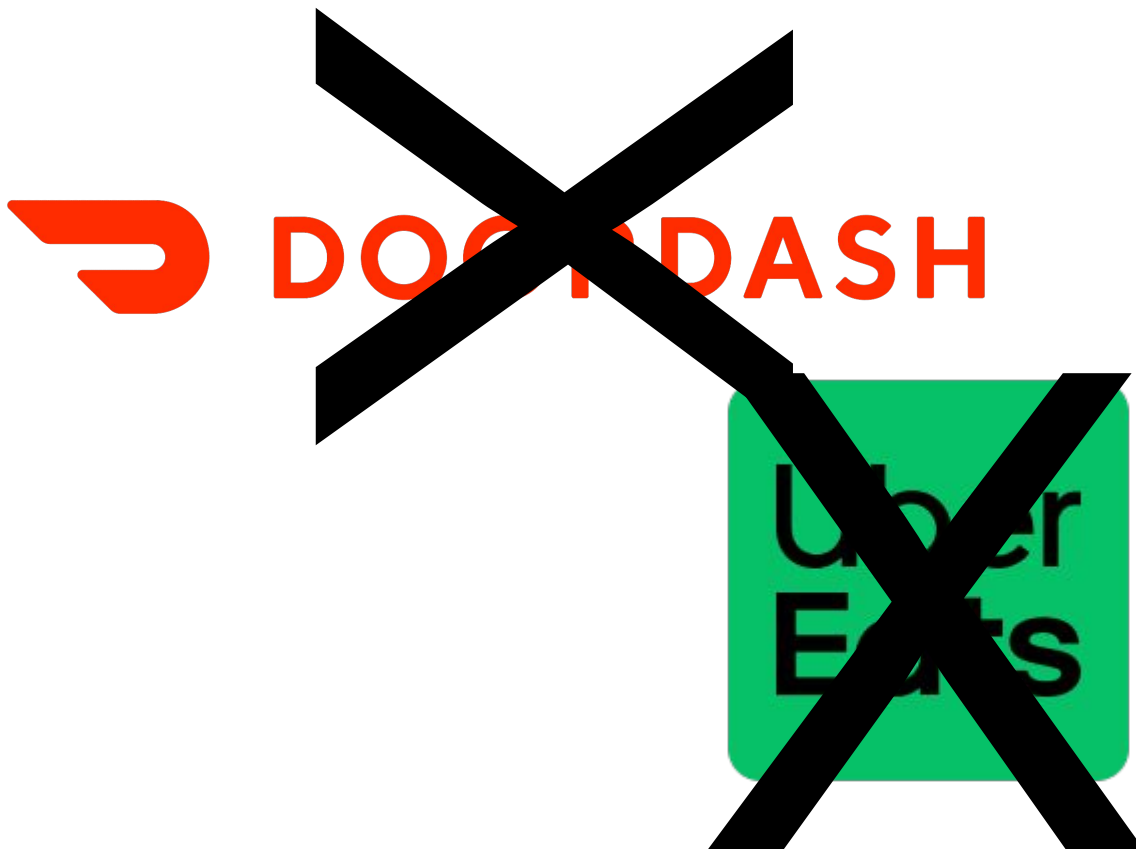


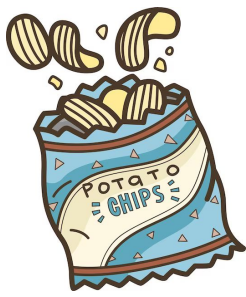
**Students will
be assigned to
the same bus
as their hotel
roommates.**

NO ONLINE FOOD ORDERING

Students will NOT be permitted to order any food to their room (including room service).

You may not have food delivered to you on this trip.





SNACKS!



**Students may bring snacks to eat
on the bus and at the hotel.**

**Have students cross reference snack
selections with roommates to avoid
any allergies and duplicated items.**

**Be cautious of items that are perishable
or could melt on a warm bus.**

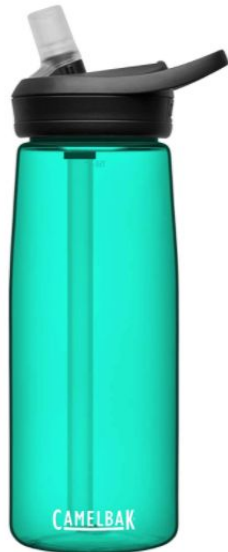
Staying Hydrated!

Liquids are important - Pack extra!

Send your child with a reusable water bottle to refill during the trip.



NO Energy Drinks.





Electronic Devices

**Students are responsible
for their devices.**

***If they don't want it ruined
it may be best not to bring it!***





LONG DAYS

**Encourage your
children to get a
good night's sleep
before and during
the trip!**

PUNCTUALITY

Students are on a tight schedule...

PACK LIGHTLY



ONE suitcase and **ONE** carry-on bag permitted per student.

Students are responsible for carrying luggage on and off the bus and into the hotel, make sure it is a manageable size and weight.



CARRY-ON BAG

Put items students might need for the first day of the trip (extra sweater) into a carry-on bag.

Students will not be returning to the hotel until after 8pm both nights.

Pack items that entertain for the bus ride... a book, magazine and/or electronic devices.

CLOTHING

Check the weather prior to travel for temperatures in Washington, D.C. and *pack appropriately.*

**Students must have comfortable walking shoes!
(average 9-11 miles daily)**

Students need to have clothes and toiletries for 3 days and 2 nights of travel.

SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY

Friends or family members may **NOT** meet with students on tour or at the hotel during the trip.

This is to ensure that students remain under our supervision.

Students will keep a buddy system with their roommates during the trip!

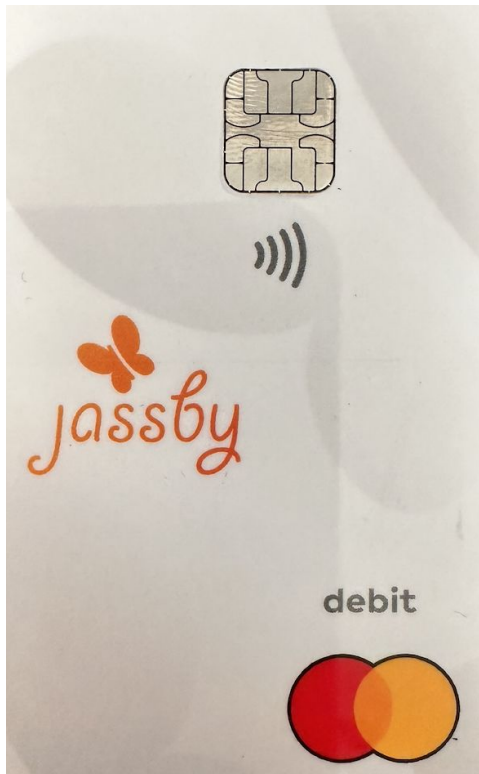
SPENDING MONEY

**There *may* be time to buy
souvenirs...\$20 per day?**



**Students may
not purchase
any items that
would not be
permitted in
school.**

DEBIT CARDS



**Students will receive their
card on Thursday
AFTERNOON prior to lunch
from their bus chaperones.**

Students will take a photograph of their card as SOON as they receive it!

Cards will load with cash 1 hour prior to food stops.

**Students will use the card two times:
Lunch Day 2, Lunch Day 3**

CURFEW AT HOTEL

Emergency procedures will be reviewed with students regarding the hotel.

Students are expected to be in their rooms upon arrival back at the hotel.

Overnight security is provided by Gerber Tours

Hotel Information

We have private overnight security in each hallway.

23 Chaperones

+

2 Nurses

+

2 Administrators



Roughly 1 Chaperone per 10 students

Day 1



6:00 am Departure from SWMS- Brown bag breakfast and lunch from home.

1:00 pm Arrival in Washington, DC. Join your Tour Guide

Visit the National Museum of African American History & Culture.

Time for picture taking at the White House.

6:00 pm Dinner at the Pentagon City Mall

Visit the Lincoln, Vietnam Veterans and Korean Memorials.

8:00 pm Check into your hotel

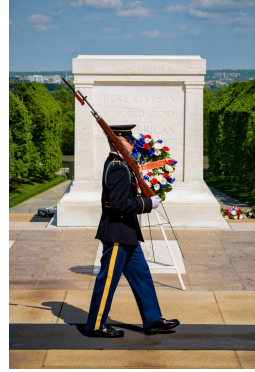


Day 2

7:00 am - Breakfast at your hotel.



8:00 am - Visit Arlington National Cemetery, including the JFK Gravesite and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



9:15 am - Participate in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

11:00 am- Visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Time for lunch at L'Enfant Plaza (\$20 will be provided).

Visit the Martin Luther King Jr., WWII, Lincoln, Vietnam Veterans, and Korean War Memorials.

3:30 pm- Visit the National Air & Space Museum

6:00 pm- Dinner at Dave and Busters (\$20 game card included)



Day 3



8:00 am- Breakfast at your hotel and check out.

9:30 am- Tour of the U.S. Capitol Building.

12:00 pm- Depart for home.

Time for lunch en route at Christiana Mall in Delaware (\$20 will be provided)

6:30 pm- Approximate arrival back at SWMS.

Items Being Sent Home

The following items will be getting sent home with your child in the next few weeks:

- ★ **Finalized Itinerary**
- ★ **Packing List**
- ★ **Bus Number**
- ★ **Roommates**
- ★ **Lanyards**
- ★ **Luggage Tags**
- ★ **Drawstring Bags**





