

September 14, 2009

To Parents/Guardians of Eighth Grade Students,

On Thursday, August 27th, our Board of Education approved our 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. The dates for this trip are from Tuesday, May 11th to Friday, May 14th. The purpose of this letter is to give some initial information concerning the requirements and approximate cost involved so that you may be thinking about whether you would like for your child to take part in this trip.

The requirements each student must meet to be eligible for the trip are listed below:

- No more than 9 lunch detentions
- A cumulative homework average of 80
- Attendance will be evaluated on an individual basis

We take the decision of choosing a destination for all trips very seriously. When considering the educational value and applications to our curriculum, we feel Washington is the best choice. Listed below are a few of the attractions we will visit and their relationship to our curriculum.

- Potential (pending scheduling) visit to the White House
- Lincoln Monument, Ford's Theatre – Lincoln's role as President is explored in social studies and in literature selections in language arts
- National Holocaust Memorial Museum – *The Diary of Anne Frank* and other pieces of literature relating to the Holocaust are explored in language arts
- Smithsonian – Located here are inventions, innovations, and cultural icons that are explored in all curricular areas
- Capitol Building – Our government and its workings are explored in social studies

In addition to educational opportunities, our students will have the opportunity for fellowship and socialization during the entire trip. The dinner and dance cruise the students adore is also included in the trip.

The final cost of the trip will be no more than \$465 (which includes meals). This is fairly consistent with the price of last year's trip. Our eighth grade sponsored dances and other events we hope to host this year will be applied to the trip to try to lower the cost of the trip for our students. Payments will be made in three installments. **The first payment of \$150 will be due October 19th – October 20th . The second payment of \$150 is due January 25th –January 26th . The final payment of no more than \$165 (This amount will most likely decrease and will be determined after all fundraising activity is completed.) is due April 5th-April 6th .**

On these dates please send the payment to Mrs. Leonard. If you would like for your child to attend the trip, but you are unable to send a full payment, please

send a note explaining your situation. If we do not receive payment or a written form stating intent for your child to go, we will assume that he/she does not plan to go. It is very important that we know on these dates the number of students planning to attend the trip. The first payment will be nonrefundable except in situations of extenuating circumstance. As payments are made to the touring company subsequent deposits may become nonrefundable as well. This will help as we begin arranging the number of chaperones needed. Our touring company will also need to make deposits for the reservations that have been made for us. If you decide at a later date that you would like for your child to attend, your child will be put on a waiting list. Should another student cancel his/her reservation, the next student on that waiting list will fill his/her spot.

If you have further questions regarding the trip, please feel free to call me at GMS (639-7841) or contact me by e-mail at leonarda@gcschools.net .

April Leonard
GMS – 8th Grade Team Leader

