



Wilbraham Middle School

466 Stony Hill Road
Wilbraham, MA 01095
(413) 596-9061
(413) 596-9382 (fax)

June 5, 2009

Dear Parents,

In the last two years, we have organized an 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. It is always a lot of fun and a wonderful experience we have been happy to provide for our 8th grade students. The trip is costly, and given the local and global economies, we re-evaluate each year whether or not the trip will occur. At this time, our student travel agency that coordinates our trip, WorldStrides, is offering a “price lock” registration period where they will lock in this year’s price and protect your family from any annual price increases. By registering now, you assure your family that the price of the trip will not exceed the price of this year’s trip of \$711. In the event that we decide in the fall that the trip will not occur due to low enrollment or low chaperone interest, any monies you have paid the company will be returned in full or an alternate trip will be planned. The “price lock” registration period ends June 15th. The packet of information accompanying this letter will explain how to register by phone, fax, or internet if you are interested. There is also information in this packet of scholarships available through the company.

In the fall, we will have a parent information night to talk about the trip in more detail. After the fall meeting and registration period, we will evaluate if the trip will occur based on the number of registrants and chaperones.

This year the cost of the trip was \$711 for three nights and four days in Washington D.C. We travel by buses and with gas prices I would expect an increase to that price for next year if we decide to go. I also encouraged families this year to consider purchasing the trip insurance from the company (an additional \$99) or through your own insurance providers in the event that something prevents your child or the school from going on the trip (student gets sick or injured prior to the trip, family issue, district or school decides not to go due to an increased terror threat or world event, or the school does not allow the student to attend).

There are some rules and expectations in order to participate in such an excursion, and they will be outlined in next year’s student handbook:

1. Students must be passing all classes including their Related Arts Classes at the time of the trip or excursion. Minimum grade average for the year (not quarter) must be 60%.
2. One of the following discipline records will exclude you from an excursion:
 - a. After receiving three separate incidents of suspension, a student will become ineligible to participate on an excursion for the remainder of the year.

- b. A serious violation of school rules and/or persistent behavioral issues may also be considered as reason to deny a child's participation under the discretion of the principal.
3. A student cannot miss more than 20 school days or the equivalent thereof in school tardiness.

You might be wondering why I am writing to you if I am not sure if the trip will occur next year. This year, we felt badly that students did not have enough time on their own to raise the funds necessary to go on the trip. This June, I wanted to inform all seventh grade families about the costs associated with a trip like this in the hopes that students would start saving their money from summer babysitting, mowing lawns, etc. Students now have 12 months to save money. A final decision about the trip will take place in the fall. Tentatively, our 2010 trip is scheduled for June 8-11. The costs breakdown like this:

$$\$711 - \$99 \text{ (deposit)} = \$612$$

$$\$612 \text{ over a ten month payment schedule} = \$61.20 \text{ a month}$$

Please read over the enclosed materials to learn more about our program.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hale
Principal