



September 4, 2019

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

We are looking forward to our Washington D.C. trip scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This trip is meant to provide each student with a lasting memory of a great experience and an opportunity to learn about and appreciate our nation's capital. Included in this packet of materials are a tentative itinerary, medical forms, packing checklist, and rules of behavior. A departure memo will go home the week of September 23<sup>rd</sup> to confirm flight times. Please find important information below regarding the trip and preparations leading up to this trip.

### **Behavior Expectations**

As a representative of St. John Paul II Catholic School and the community, each student is expected to **act in a Christ-like manner**. In addition to trip rules, school rules apply at all times to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience.

### **Physical Appearance/Dress**

Students are expected to **maintain a neat, clean appearance** on the trip. All students will be wearing either a St. John Paul II Catholic School polo or spirit shirt throughout the trip, along with school appropriate pants. No shorts, cut-offs, joggers, sweatpants, jeans with holes, tight fitting jeans, or low cut jeans will be allowed. Plan to have *two pairs* of comfortable shoes for walking; no backless shoes, clogs, or new shoes may be worn (let's avoid blisters). Remember to pack for the weather forecast. It can get cool in D.C. this time of year, so be sure to check the weather report when packing. You should plan on layering clothes. *Students must wear their St. John Paul II 8<sup>th</sup> grade sweatshirts to the airport.*

### **Cell Phones, Cameras, Electronic Devices/games, etc.**

Students **may not bring** electronic devices such as, but not limited to, a **cell phone, digital camera**, electronic games, Ipod/Mp3 player, tablet, computer, DVD player, or CD player. Please do not bring digital cameras. The chaperones will be taking many pictures and each child will have access to all of these pictures after the trip.

### **Phone Calls Home**

Students will call home the first night only. Again, **absolutely no cell phones for students are allowed on the trip**. Please operate on the "no news is good news" standard. The adults on the trip will facilitate any needed calls. In case of a major emergency, please call school. Personnel at school can always contact our group. Movies and long distance phone service are shut-off in the hotel rooms. If you call you will be connected to a chaperone room.

### **Medication/Medical Forms**

Any **medication** must be given to Mrs. Aertker by **Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> with** the proper paper work filled out. All medication must be clearly labeled, in the original bottle, and placed in a Ziploc baggie with the student's name. Please note: a physician AND parent must sign off on ALL medications. *This includes over the counter medications such as aspirin, Tylenol, etc.*

**Copies of Insurance and Dental Cards**

In addition to all medical forms, please provide a copy (**front and back**) of your medical and dental insurance cards.

**Money, Food, Snacks**

Students will need to bring about \$100, which will be used to purchase souvenirs. Students are responsible for their money. Students are well fed throughout the trip. Students should *not bring* snacks/candy/gum from home, with the exception of a snack (no drink) for the flight to DC. Please let us know if your child has any dietary needs.

**Luggage**

Students are allowed one suitcase (wheeled suitcases preferred) and may carry a backpack/daypack on the plane. This backpack/daypack will be needed daily during the trip to keep personal items while sight-seeing. Students should be able to carry their own luggage. Please note that the airline has a 50 pound limit on bags. **Please pay attention to all airline flying regulations when packing bags (i.e. hair gels, sharp objects, liquids, etc.).**

**Chaperones**

**Chaperones** for the trip are Mrs. Drewes, Mrs. Hartfiel, Ms. Fama, Mrs. Aertker, Dr. Weinman, and Ms. Fannin. All directions given by the chaperones are to be followed. The decision of the chaperones will be final.

Please complete and return the following items to the school by **Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> or earlier. (All forms to be returned are in yellow):**

- \_\_\_ Medication Permission Form (if needed)
- \_\_\_ Medical Information Form
- \_\_\_ Copies of insurance and dental cards (both sides)
- \_\_\_ Behavior Guidelines Acknowledgement

Thank you,

Mike Weinman, PhD (Assistant Principal)