

DC Questions and Suggestions

Luggage

We recommend 2 things.

#1. A backpack, it could be their school backpack to pack snacks (not water or liquids more than 2 ounces) please consider healthy snacks. We have our bus drivers pick up cases or water and sell them for \$1.00 a bottle on the bus. Please talk to your students about staying hydrated. We usually have students pack an extra pair of socks, maybe underwear and phone chargers and any other medicine that are needed while on their trip. Please label student's chargers and electronics with their names for students to easily identify.

#2. If all of the clothes and luggage can fit into a carryon, this is ideal, as students are carrying their own luggage to their rooms (4 different hotels) the area in the hotel rooms could be tight with oversized luggage. Please make sure luggage is not over 50 pounds or they will have to pay the "Overweight Fee". Students will be given a luggage tag on the day we leave for the trip. Please label medication if not in the original prescription package. (Please see packing list on website)

Students are allowed to bring refillable water containers, as long as they are empty when we go through airport security. Please speak to your students about not packing clothing that contains metal such as chained wallets or metal studs on clothing or facemasks. This slows our group down as we go through many metal detectors on the trip.

Money

We usually recommend students bring \$15-\$30 a day for their lunch, snacks and any souvineers. In regular years we tell students that it would be good to bring half of their money on a debit card and half in cash. If you are able to open a banking account and teach your students how to use these cards, this would be a great idea. In years past, some parents have commented how it was nice to see how much students were spending viewing their online activity. In the past, we have recommended that portioned amounts in envelopes, that say Sunday, Monday, Tuesday etc, so that students can help manage their own money. Please tell your students that if they run out of money to speak to an adult. We (Mr. & Mrs. Montoya) usually bring extra money to loan out in case this happens. Students will be provided with breakfast and dinner while on the trip. Please see the itinerary for more details.

ID's

Mrs. Montoya has ordered DC ID cards for our students, which have our (Mr. & Mrs. Montoya's cell phone numbers on the back). Since we know that they are checking for student ID's at airports, school ID's are acceptable, please have students bring their LV School issued ID's as well, for backup. If students do not have their student ID's, please have them contact the front office to have them print out a new one. (Do not wait until the week before we leave. Sooner is better) No passport or California Real ID is required. (Adults/Chaperones need a California issued ID or Passport to travel within the United States)

Fundraising Money

1st of all, thank you to Mrs. Perez for running the See's Candy Fundraiser. If you are one of the 18 students that participated in the See's Candy fundraiser, we will be issuing checks and handing them out on March 7th, checks will be made out to the students, unless you have emailed us and requested something different. Please let Mr. Montoya know if you have any questions. andy_montoya@myfsd.org

COVID 19 information

We will carry thermometers with us on the trip in case a student is feeling ill. We will also have a number of COVID 19 tests with us on the trip. We highly recommend it, but it is not mandatory to test your students before coming on the trip. We also highly recommend that students be vaccinated and boosted, but it is not mandatory. If a student is feeling sick, please have them let us know. We keep in contact with parents on illness. For the past 20 some years, we have seen that students feel sick when they are not drinking enough water, not sleeping, and not eating enough fiber. Please talk to your students about how this is not the trip to eat junk food the entire trip, they need to be balanced to enjoy the trip.

Respect

Please speak to your students about respect. Respect at memorials, at cemeteries and at our nation's monuments. Students, especially this year, need refreshers on appropriate behavior while touring, walking, interacting, and technology use. Profanity and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and is unacceptable.

Tribe Groups

Students will be placed into Tribe groups. This is especially important in New York City, when students will be walking and exploring with their Tribe group. They will need to stick together with their Tribe leader. Tribes will be posted on the DC Website and will be handed out on March 7th and the evening we leave in case there are any changes.

Discovering and Learning

We will be speaking to students about being discoverers and learning on this trip. We encourage questions and participation. We have guided tours of Boston and Gettysburg, we ask that students not wear ear phones or be on their phones while we are learning and touring. We encourage students to be looking out the windows and soaking in their trip. It is not ok for students to be playing games on cell phones while we are on tour.

See something, say something

Please speak to your student and let them know that if they feel something is not right or they see something that concerns them, to contact us by texting or calling us on our cell numbers.