

WASHINGTON DC TRIP PARENT MEETING



Scan the QR code to access the meeting slides



Washington D.C. Parent Meeting 9/17/26

Welcome parents and students!



What are we going to talk about?

- ❑ Trip Logistics
- ❑ Communication
- ❑ Itinerary Highlights
- ❑ Rules and Expectations
- ❑ Packing Preparation
- ❑ Forms
- ❑ Parent “To Do” list
- ❑ Questions!!!



Trip Logistics

- ❑ Trip Dates: Oct. 12 - Oct. 15, 2026
- ❑ Plan to be here the morning we leave, Oct. 12 *no later than* 6:15am.
 - ❑ Busses are scheduled to be here by 6:30am and we want to be as ready to load as we can!
 - ❑ We must stay on schedule so please mark your calendars today!
 - ❑ **BRING YOUR PACKED/BAGGED LUNCH**
- ❑ Busses will pull out of HMS at 7:00am sharp!

Trip Logistics Continued

- Return back to HMS will be sometime around 9:00-10:00pm on Thursday evening, Oct 15.
 - Please have a plan to pick up your student that evening! We will communicate with you all a more specific time in our travels!
- 5 Total Busses
- Bus #2 is a Peanut/Tree Nut Free
- Students will be aware of bus assignments on Monday, October 5th

Trip Communication

We will post updates, photos, and communication through Parent Square!



ParentSquare

Itinerary Highlights

- ❑ Memorials and Monuments
- ❑ Arlington National Cemetery
- ❑ U.S. Naval Academy Tour
- ❑ Holocaust Museum
- ❑ US Capitol Building
- ❑ Smithsonian Museums
- ❑ George Washington's Mount Vernon
- ❑ Gettysburg Battlefields Tour

Itinerary is posted on the website and subject to change



Wreath Layer Opportunity at Arlington

- Each year HMS gets to select 4 students to present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.
- This is an honor and memorable experience for all in attendance.
- Application is now officially open and will close TOMORROW, Friday, Sept. 18th at 2:40pm.
 - Application is an essay!
- Students will be informed of who is chosen on 9/25/26
- Application is linked to this QR code, on D.C. website and will be shared during social studies classes.



Where will we sleep?

- Our hotel is Crowne Plaza Dulles
 - Standard 2 queen bed hotel room
 - 4 students to each room
 - Swimming pool is NOT open to us.
 - We will pretty much eat, sleep and shower at the hotel. We will not spend large amounts of time here.



Meals / Money on Trip

☐ **Meals:**

- ☐ Day 1: Packed lunch on bus (*If on Bus 2, lunch must be peanut free)
- ☐ ALL other meals are covered.
 - ☐ Students will receive pre-loaded Jassby cards for use at food courts (will equate to \$15 per meal)
 - ☐ 1 Dinner will be at the Mount Vernon Inn
 - ☐ 3 Meals will be eaten in transit (Panera Bread, Jimmy Johns, and Chick-Fil-A)

☐ **Spending Money:**

- ☐ NOT REQUIRED
- ☐ Many of our sites have Gift Shops where students can purchase souvenirs.

Rules and Expectations

- ❑ Any student who is suspended between now and the and the trip may forfeit their opportunity to attend the trip.
 - ❑ May not receive full amount back from Prodigy due to timing of the trip if student is removed from the trip roster.
- ❑ Any behavior that would warrant a suspension from school while on the trip will result in the immediate removal from the trip at the guardian's expense.
- ❑ Respect all HMS chaperones, Prodigy staff, bus drivers, and local guides.
- ❑ Be responsible for packing, carrying and maintaining all of your goods bought and purchased. There are a lot of kids so keep track of your own items!

Packing Preparation

- ❑ **Luggage:** One duffel bag size/small suitcase with one carry-on for the bus (backpack)!
- ❑ **Clothing:** We encourage jeans/shorts/leggings and a t-shirt or sweatshirt! We want all students to be comfortable BUT to also remember that we are representing HMS and be proud of that representation!
 - ❑ ***Please pay attention to the weather when packing!***
- ❑ **Shoes:** Comfy walking shoes -- we will do a lot of walking! Preferably tennis shoes. No sandals or Crocs.
 - ❑ Students will walk many miles a day. Please be sure that students have broken in their shoes before the trip.
- ❑ **Rain Prep:** There is a chance we encounter some rain so plan to have at least an umbrella, poncho or raincoat to send on the trip!
- ❑ **Small drawstring bag or purse:** Great for walking with their daily items and money!
 - ❑ Please make sure it is something that is smaller and your student will be used to carrying. We will have to go through security at some locations.
- ❑ More details for packing and a packing list will be shared at our future meetings/emails.

Mandatory Forms for ALL

- ❑ All students need to have a consent form and emergency form turned in to travel! These forms are due **TOMORROW, Sept 18th** - most students have these already turned in. If you need an additional form:
 - ❑ **Medical Permissions & Overnight Trip Form(Hard/paper copy turn in)**
 - ❑ Can be found on Canvas page, main office or with Mrs. Karaoglan
- ❑ Please return these mandatory forms ASAP!

Trip Details

- ❑ If you have questions or concerns about the trip payments or refunds, you need to contact Prodigy Travel directly
 - ❑ No money or control of payments is done through Heritage Middle School
- ❑ Prodigy Travel Contact Information
 - ❑ Office: (614)436-8747
 - ❑ E-mail: info@prodigystudenttravel.com

Parent Remaining “To Do” List

- ❑ Complete Medical & Overnight Form and submit on paper to main office or Mrs. Karaoglan
- ❑ Check email and website/Canvas for any updates and important information!

Questions

If you think of something after today, please feel free to email at any time!

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