

2017 Washington DC Parent Meeting

*Welcome parents: Introduction of chaperones: Chad Carr, Evan Snyder, Patrick Anderson, Ryan Snyder, Sydney Willoughby, Todd Crosby, Amy Collins, Kim Suder, Jeremy Stacy

*Information and registration packets: Registration packet sent home last week with students. In the fall, turn in medical form and room request form.

*What you will also pick up at final parent meeting in the fall: Luggage tags, student journal, bus list, roommate assignments, itinerary

*How do I pick my roommates? Students are asked to turn in their room request form in September (TBA) listing their preferred roommates. This is NOT a guarantee. Should students list each other in **GROUPS OF FOUR or TWO**. DO NOT SUBMIT A ROOM OF THREE.

*Who is selected to go? As of today, 94 student spaces are available. This number will be increased to 135 tomorrow. This number could adjust if we are able to get more chaperones. We will have three chaperones per bus.

*When do we leave? **Thursday October 12th 6:30 PM Please arrive no later than 6:15.** *When do we arrive in DC? **Friday, October 13th 6 AM**

*What do we do when we arrive? We will have access to a changing room. Students can change clothing and we will then go to breakfast. We will then switch buses and head to Monticello.

*What should be in my suitcase? Change of clothing for each day and be prepared for weather change. Look online for weather forecast in Washington D.C. before departure.

*Can I buy souvenirs? Yes, but no laser pointers, gadgets, etc. Please be mindful that some items can distract or bother others.

*How much spending money do I take? This is not mandatory and the amount is up to each person. Typically, \$50-\$100 is plenty.

*Are there behavior expectations and consequences? Please keep in mind, school rules apply throughout the duration of this trip. Poor behavior will result in a parent phone call. Should the behavior continue, the student is removed from his/her group. The last step is that the student is sent home at parent expense. World Strides will escort the student to the airport.

*What is expected of students at the memorials/sites? Clay MS expects students to demonstrate the Clay Way while on the trip. We ask that responsible and respectful behavior is emphasized at these locations, as others are there to visit as well and may be paying respects to loved ones.

*Bus expectations: Students will remain in the SAME seating chart/chaperone group throughout the entire trip on all buses. Students sit with roommates at all times. This will make supervision a lot easier and reliable for chaperones and enable students to also locate roommates quickly.

*What are the rules regarding my hotel room? We ask that students follow proper behavior at all times. No horseplay, ordering food, calling other rooms, etc. Students do NOT leave their room once attendance is taken. Quiet behavior is expected from students to respect other guests in the hotel. If students break something in their room, they are responsible to pay for it.

*Can we watch movies in our room? Students are asked NOT to order movies but may watch television. Should students order a movie all charges will be applied to the parents. Students are asked to NOT watch pay channels of any kind, including HBO.

*Will there be security at the hotel? Yes. We have night security on our floor. Security will not permit students to leave rooms and will report any loud behavior. Should students receive a bad report, the students will be asked to call parents to discuss.

*How do we improve our safety? We travel in the buddy system at **ALL** times. Chaperones will take attendance before and after every stop. Students are expected to be on time when meeting chaperones.

*Do we get to swim? NO SWIMMING IN THE POOL. We do not have time for that.

*Who cleans up my spill? Students are responsible for keeping their part of the bus and hotel room clean as much as they can. Should they have an accident they need to clean it up.

*What can we take with us? 1 suitcase, 1 carryon, 1 pillow, snacks/drink. We ask that students have NO PEANUT PRODUCTS of any kind at any point during the trip!

*Can we take a movie with us? Yes, only to watch on bus. Must be PG or less. Chaperones will also bring age-appropriate movies. We advise students to not bring portable laptops or DVD players. Should students bring one, they are responsible for its well-being.

*Do I have to wear my lanyard? Yes, at all times. Use sharpie to put first and last name. It has important info on it.

*Can I take my cell phone? Yes, but NO pics on the bus as it will distract drivers at night. There are specific rules regarding phone use at different memorials and we will cover those as we go.

*Who wakes us up? Chaperones will knock on doors but students are expected to set alarms at a reasonable time to allow them to get ready and eat breakfast. We also use the “wake-up call service”. Mr. Carr will

set this service for the students each day. Be mindful of prep time. We need to leave on time each day.

*Do we get room keys? Yes, four keys per room. Each student gets one. Be responsible!

*What if I forget my cell phone at a location? We cannot wait on students to search for lost phones as we have a tight itinerary. We must stay on schedule. If the student feels like they may lose their phone, do NOT take it.

*Do I have to attend the dance on the last night? YES. All students will attend. Students do not have to actually dance and may choose to socialize or watch an NFL game on television.

*When do we return home? **Monday, October 16th** estimated time of arrival home is **5:00-5:30 PM**. Students will keep in contact with you as we get closer to home. Please pick up on time.

*How do I get selected to lay the wreath at Arlington? TWO students will be selected from the group to represent Clay MS in the laying of the wreath ceremony at Arlington Cemetery. This is a prestigious honor. Students who wish to be chosen must submit a well-written paper to Mr. Carr by Thursday, October 5th. Students were told this at the student meeting. ANY LATE PAPER WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. The theme of your paper should be: **“Monuments and Memorials: Why Citizens of the United States Should Visit Them”**

*Itinerary: 95% accurate (Monticello, Holocaust Museum, National Archives, Smithsonian Air and Space, Smithsonian American History, Smithsonian Natural History, Capitol Tour, Arlington Cemetery, National Archives, and all major monuments and memorials)

WEBSITE: www.worldstrides.com/signup

TRIP ID: 142617 is our ID for Clay MS

*If your child requires medication or special assistance, please see Mr. Carr

