

September 26, 2023

Dear LMS and UVMS Families,

In the past, our 8th grade classes have been offered a 3-day trip to Washington D.C. After careful consideration and conversations with faculty, staff, families, and students, we have decided to change this end-of-the-year school trip. We have outlined below the reasons for this decision and some possible alternatives that we are exploring.

This decision was not made lightly. We are committed to ensuring that our 8th graders will have new, exciting, and enriching learning experiences. We are thrilled to introduce a revamped educational journey that we believe will not only maintain the spirit of exploration, but also provide more diverse, engaging, and extended learning opportunities. Our new program will consist of multiple day trips that promise to broaden students' horizons and enhance their educational experience in ways that extend beyond the boundaries of a single destination.

We understand the Washington D.C. trip has educational value and has been viewed as a milestone moment for many. This change is based on several factors, including our concern for student safety, increasing costs, and the value of the trip related to the cost. Dr. Moyer and the Board of Education have been aware of our discussions to shift the 8th grade class trip from D.C. to a series of day trips. The points below outline the concerns that we shared with regard to the Washington D.C. overnight trip:

- Safety concerns related to student health and supervision
- Safety concerns related to student rooming and supervision
- Safety concerns related to transportation
- Staffing coverage for the trip and for those students who do not attend
- Ever increasing costs and the value of the trip relative to the cost

We understand that with any trip, there are safety risks. Our goal is to minimize those risks and still provide all 8th grade students with memorable experiences. Both LMS and UVMS have seen decreased participation in the Washington D.C. trip. We hope that by offering more local trips without the overnight component, we can increase participation to make this truly an 8th grade experience.

We would like to offer the opportunity for our families and students to provide us with their input on the options we are proposing to celebrate the culmination of their time in middle school. In the near future, we will be reaching out to you about the ways that you can provide us with your feedback about this year's 8th grade trips. **Below is a list of some possible options we are considering. We are open to further suggestions.**

The 9/11 Memorial and Museum: Located at the World Trade Center in New York City, the 9/11 Memorial Museum tells the story of 9/11 through media, narratives, and a collection of monumental and authentic artifacts, presenting visitors with personal stories of loss, recovery, and hope. The 9/11 Memorial & Museum is the country's principal institution concerned with exploring 9/11, documenting its impact, and examining its continuing significance. Honoring those who were killed in the 2001 and 1993 attacks is at the heart of our mission.



Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island: Prior to 1890, individual states, rather than the Federal Government, regulated immigration into the United States. Castle Garden (now Castle Clinton), located in the Battery of Manhattan, served as the New York State immigration station from 1855 to 1890. Approximately eight million immigrants passed through its doors, mostly from Northern European countries; this constituted the first large wave of immigrants to settle and populate the U.S.



American Museum of Natural History: The American Museum of Natural History is one of the world's preeminent scientific and cultural institutions. Since its founding in 1869, the Museum has advanced its global mission to discover, interpret, and disseminate information about human cultures, the natural world, and the universe through a wide-ranging program of scientific research, education, and exhibition. The Museum is renowned for its exhibitions and scientific collections, which serve as a field guide to the entire planet and present a panorama of the world's cultures.



African American Museum in Philadelphia: Founded in 1976 in celebration of the nation's Bicentennial, the African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP) is the first institution funded and built by a major municipality to preserve, interpret and exhibit the heritage of African Americans. Throughout its evolution, the museum has objectively interpreted and presented the achievements and aspirations of African Americans from pre-colonial times to the current day.



Museum of Jewish Heritage: The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust is New York’s contribution to the global responsibility to never forget. The Museum is committed to the crucial mission of educating diverse visitors about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust.

As a place of memory, the Museum enables Holocaust survivors to speak through recorded testimony and draws on rich collections to illuminate Jewish history and experience. As a public history institution, it offers intellectually rigorous and engaging exhibitions, programs, and educational resources.



West Point Museum - US Army Center of Military History: The mission of the West Point Museum is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret historically significant artifacts pertaining to the United States Military Academy, United States Army and the Profession of Arms. The Museum will supplement cadet academic, cultural and military instruction and provide educational programs and services for military and civilian personnel. As a public institution, the museum stimulates interest in the United States Military Academy, the United States Army and the Military profession.



Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites:

Hyde Park, New York, is home to three national historic sites that together attract more than half a million visitors every year: the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site; Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (also known as Val-Kill); and the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The sites are combined into a single administrative unit: Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. The properties compose three of the approximately 390 areas that make up the national park system. Although they are formally designated as national historic sites, these areas may be considered—and are frequently referred to in this document—as national parks. Together the parks include over 1,100 acres of federally owned land along the east bank of the Hudson River, along with two fully furnished mansions, 40 historic buildings, 14 miles of roads and trails, 35 acres of forest plantations set out by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, five historic gardens, nearly 100 acres of open fields, and over 25,000 objects and artifacts.

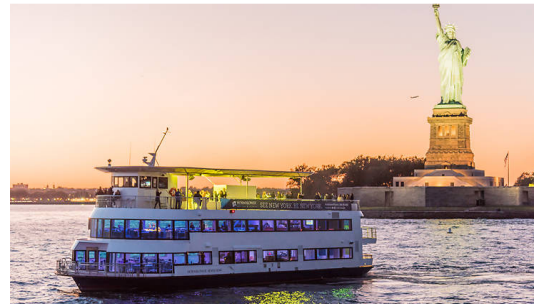


The New York State Museum: The New York State Museum is a center of art, science, and history dedicated to exploring the human and natural history of the state. Established in 1836, it is the oldest and largest state museum in the country. From its beginning, the Museum has been home to some of the nation's leading scientists, including the founders of American paleontology, ethnology, botany and mycology. Its collections rank among the finest in many fields and total more than 16 million scientific specimens and one million cultural objects.



Dinner/Dance Cruise Around Manhattan:

Enjoy a DJd dinner dance experience while viewing Manhattan's skyline and NYC landmarks. This event would be private for our school, and would offer students an opportunity to connect with friends while experiencing a unique perspective of some of the city's famous sites.



Rocking Horse Ranch:

Students can enjoy BBQ lunch, Big Splash indoor waterpark, outdoor pools, lake activities, rock climbing wall, super bungee jumpers, archery and other sports activities.



Multiple day trips to a variety of destinations, each carefully chosen to promote a deeper understanding of history and culture, will give students a chance to learn about different communities and gain a broader perspective on the subjects they study. We will also make sure that students have an opportunity to have fun and to socialize with their peers. It is our hope that this new approach will help increase student participation, as it offers more flexibility in scheduling and accommodates a broader range of interests.

We continue to be committed to ensuring that our students always receive the highest quality education and experiences at our middle schools.

Respectfully,

Todd Richard, Principal of LMS

Lisa Roloson, Principal of UVMS