

Dear Direwolf Parents/Guardians,

The eighth grade plans a number of activities and trips this year. We list them here to help you with planning.

Event	Date of Event	Approximate cost	Behavior criteria	Behavior criteria begins	Service learning hours needed
Fall Trip	Early October	\$20	< 2	Sept 9th	n/a
Winter Dance	Jan 24 th	\$10	<4	Dec 2 nd	22 by Dec 20 th
Washington, DC & Hartford Week	May 11 - 15	\$500 \$75	< 8	Jan 21st	26 by Jan 24 th
Dinner Dance	May 29	\$25	< 4	April 20th	30 by May 1 st
Spring Outing	TBD	\$50	< 4	April 20 th	30 by May 1 st

Notes:

- A tight budget this year means that the trips cost more than in the past. Be aware that the costs are **only estimates**.
- Of course we are not including any incidental expenses such as trip souvenirs or outfits for the dance.
- In general, the money is due several weeks before the day of the event.
- The Washington, DC payments usually go something like this:
 - Two payments of about \$250 each in February, and March.
 - Send your child with about \$125 spending money in May
- No student will be allowed to sign up for the Washington, DC trip unless he or she has completed the required service learning hours from 6th and 7th grade at HMTCA and half of the 8th grade hours. For most students this means that without 26 hours documented by January 24th, you aren't going.
- These field trips are designed to make the learning in the classroom more meaningful and memorable. Each trip directly relates to various topics studied in several classes. We strongly encourage each and every student to participate in at least one of the trips. We are aware that this might present too great a financial burden for some families. Please contact the guidance counselor, the social worker, Mrs. Bird (team leader), or one of the administrators if you would like to discuss this.

- All HMTCA field trips are a privilege. A student with numerous and/or serious behavior problems in the weeks and months leading up to the trip will not be allowed to participate. To make this as clear as possible we are instituting the following policy:
 - ❖ We will use a point system in which the student is penalized with points for every serious infraction.
 1. One point for any bus suspension, lunch detention, or minor referral
 2. Two points for any office referrals or after school detentions
 3. Three points for each day of any suspension – inside or outside
 - ❖ Once any student reaches the point threshold for a trip, their status will be reviewed. Please refer to the chart for details.

Regardless of the point totals, the administration reserves the right to include or exclude any student from a field trip for inappropriate behavior.

- All HMTCA students are required to complete and document ten service learning hours each year. By the end of eighth grade, each student should have 30 hours documented. In order to participate in trips and other activities, it is necessary to keep up with the schedule shown above. It may appear complicated at first, but please realize that any student who simply completes the hours early in the year and gets the paperwork in really has nothing to worry about!
- Please note that passing grades for all core classes are required for participation in the two end of the year activities: Dinner Dance & Spring Outing.

The eighth grade trips and activities are both educational and a lot of fun. We want everyone to participate and have the whole HMTCA experience!

Ms. Bird

8th Grade Direwolves Team Leader

