

29 August 2018

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
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Team Building Trips	October 10 – 12 (3 individual day trips)	\$20	< 3	19-Sep-17	n/a
Washington, DC	May 6 - 10	\$500	< 8	23-Jan-18	25 by Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Dinner Dance	May 31	\$35	< 3	1-May-18	30 by May 1 <sup>st</sup>
Holiday Hill Outing	June 5	\$50	< 3	1-May-18	30 by May 1 <sup>st</sup>

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 25 hours in the computer by January 23rd, 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, one of the team leaders, 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
    2. Two points for any referrals to the Restorative Center or Admin Detentions
    3. Three points for each day of any suspension – inside or outside
  - ❖ Once any student reaches eight points over the three months prior to the DC trip, he/she is off the trip. See the chart for details.
  - ❖ Once any student reaches three points in the 30 days prior to a day trip, he/she is off the trip. See the chart for details.

**Regardless of the point totals, the administration reserves the right to 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 the two end of the year activities, Dinner Dance and Holiday Hill, are also required for participation.

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!

Mrs. Bird

*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Direwolves Team Leader*