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CAPSTONE UPDATE

May 29, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of the 7th Grade Students,

We now have 170 students registered for the Capstone trip to Washington D.C. in 2020! I have great faith that we will easily hit the minimum 200 student participation and possibly even go over the 200 student minimum. Nevertheless, I spoke with Grand Classroom and **we will be able to continue with the trip regardless of whether or not we hit the 200 student minimum.**

I have great news to share with you! **We were able to budget for this opportunity to help offset the cost per student. I am pleased to share that each student who has signed up for this trip will be allocated \$267 to offset the cost.** It is my hope that this will be the yearly dollar amount that every 8th grader will be allocated in the years to come for this Capstone experience. **See below, under *Cost of Trip* to know exactly what this trip will cost for your child.**

Finances should not be a reason why a child is not participating. I will work with any family who needs financial support. However, it is important that every family contribute to this trip.

Below are important facts you need to know:

Date of Capstone:

The dates are **April 29th, 30th, and May 1st - 2020.** We will leave early Wednesday morning, departing from FLMS at 6:30 AM sharp, and arrive home on Friday night between 9:00-10:00 PM at FLMS.

Cost of this trip?

\$595 for two nights and three days in Washington D.C. This includes lodging, meals, transportation, entrance fees, and insurance. With the monies to offset costs, this is what you will be expected to pay:

Cost of Trip	\$595
Monies allotted to each student	<u>-\$267</u>
New Cost to Parent	<u>\$328</u>

Bottom line, this trip will now cost \$328. If you paid the deposit of \$99, you will now owe Grand Classroom \$229.

Bedford Central School District

Fox Lane Middle School Campus
P.O. Box 298
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

Some of you paid in full. Grand Classroom will send you \$267 via check or credit card dependent on how you paid Grand Classroom.

All financial transactions will not take place until July based on the new budget season.

Any ideas of how I can pay for this trip?

Perhaps families can think of birthday, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Moving Up gifts differently and whatever you planned to spend on your child for these special occasions can now go to this trip. Students can think differently about whether to spend \$3 dollars for cookies during lunch or save this money.

When do I have to register?

All interested students must register ASAP, including the submission of a \$99 deposit. The direct link to FLMS's webpage on the *Grand Classroom* link is below. All necessary information will be on this page.

<https://trips.grandclassroom.com/Trip/Index/FoxLaneMiddleSchoolWashingtonDCTrip>

How do I pay?

You can pay in installments or in one full payment. The direct link to FLMS's webpage on the *Grand Classroom* link is below. All necessary information will be on this page.

<https://trips.grandclassroom.com/Trip/Index/FoxLaneMiddleSchoolWashingtonDCTrip>

If I do not have access to the Internet, is there another way I can pay?

Yes, you can work out cash payments with Principal Ostrofsky or Gisela Rannekleiv (Spanish speaking staff member). If you also need help completing any form, we would be more than happy to assist. Our contact information is below.

Sue Ostrofsky, Principal at 914-241-6144 or Gisela Rannekleiv at 914-241-6134.

You can also mail your check directly to *Grand Classroom*, P.O. Box 7166, Charlottesville, VA, 22906. Please reference FLMS and student's name on the check.

Does my child need to take money on this trip?

No, however, if you want your child to have monies to purchase souvenirs or snacks, you may want to give him/her \$20-30 dollars.

If I change my mind or an emergency prevents my child from participating, will I be able to get my money back (whatever I paid thus far)?

Only if you paid the insurance of \$60. Insurance is an opt out, so if you do not want insurance, please uncheck it while registering. If you forget to uncheck it, call *Grand Classroom* directly and they will correct it for you (434.975.2629).

Is there a minimum number of student participants for this trip to move forward?

While we **needed 200 students to commit** to this trip by completing the registration form and (submitting a **\$99 deposit** ASAP), Grand Classroom will move forward with this trip based on the current numbers. The direct link to FLMS's webpage on the *Grand Classroom* link is below. All necessary information will be on this page.

<https://trips.grandclassroom.com/Trip/Index/FoxLaneMiddleSchoolWashingtonDCTrip>



If I do not want my child to attend, does she/he still come to school when the rest of his/her class is in D.C.?

Yes, your child will still have school on these days.

How many students to a room and how will you determine rooming assignments?

Four students will share a room. We will ask every student to list 10 peers that she/he wouldn't mind bunking with for this trip. We will guarantee at least one of these students will be in your child's roommate group. Staff will create the groupings. **This will not take place until late fall of 2019.**

How many students per chaperone?

There will be approximately 10 students per chaperone. Staff will create the groupings.

Who will chaperone?

FLMS administrators, faculty and staff will chaperone. No parent chaperones.

What if my child has significant allergies?

You will complete the medical form found on the website. The company will know about food allergies and will plan accordingly. The chaperone will also know about your child's food allergies. We will also bring a nurse with us on this trip.

What is the itinerary for this trip?

We hope to see and explore the following sites:

- Day 1
 - Depart FLMS for DC
 - White House picture stop
 - Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Memorial
 - Holocaust Museum
 - Dinner at Buca di Beppo
 - Night Tour of the Monuments
 - Check into hotel

- Day 2
 - Visit Arlington National Cemetery: Changing of the Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
 - Space Shuttle Memorial and Kennedy Gravesites
 - African American History Museum
 - Iwo Jima Memorial
 - Smithsonian Institution Museums
 - National Archives
 - DJ, Dinner Dance Cruise on the Potomac
 - Return to the hotel

- Day 3
 - Capitol Tour, Supreme Court, Library of Congress
 - Newseum
 - Manassas National Battlefield Park
 - Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Center
 - Depart for FLMS



I am interested in donating monies to help offset the cost for families in need. How do I do this?

Many parents have inquired about monetary donations to help families that may struggle to pay the entire amount for this Capstone experience. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help offset costs, please do the following:

- Write a check to BCSD, indicating in the memo part of the check that this money is for “8th Grade Capstone”.
- Your check will suffice as evidence of a donation and you can write it off as a charity. You do not need a tax ID number.
- This link to a website regarding charitable donations may answer any further questions:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=charity+deduction+for+public+school+donations&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en-us&client=safari>

I am grateful to families who inquired about helping other families. Thank you.

Moving Forward:

You will receive more information as we get closer to the trip such as packing of clothing, cell phone policy, what students can and cannot bring on this trip, etc.

Feel free to reach out to Assistant Principal Mary Harrison, Gisela Rannekleiv (Spanish speaking) or Principal Ostrofsky for more information or questions.

Principal Ostrofsky: sostrofsky0835@bcSDny.org or 914-241-6144

Assistant Principal Harrison: mharrison0486@bcSDny.org or 914-241-6125

Gisela Rannekleiv: grannekleiv4507@bcSDny.org or 914-241-6134

You can also reach out directly to *Grand Classroom*, as they are more than happy to answer any questions you may have about the trip. The direct link to FLMS’s webpage on the *Grand Classroom* link is below. All necessary information will be on this page:

<https://trips.grandclassroom.com/Trip/Index/FoxLaneMiddleSchoolWashingtonDCTrip>,

Please feel free to call Naomi Beck at 434-975-2629 or email her at naomibeck@grandclassroom.com. She is so helpful and will be responsive to any questions or concerns you may have.

Contacting Families:

We will contact every 7th grade family we have not heard from regarding this trip, to ensure that no one is missing any of my communication about this trip.

Sincerely,



Susan Ostrofsky

