

September 26, 2019

Dear 8th Grade Parents,

The eighth grade teachers and administrators are excited to inform you about our annual class trip to the Asheville, NC. The trip is scheduled for April 2-3, 2020, and is being arranged by Group Travel, LLC, in Hickory, North Carolina.

The students will be transported by motor coach to Asheville on the morning of April 2nd. We will leave school around 6 AM and drive all morning to reach Asheville by 9am. Tour guides and SLMS faculty, as well as parent chaperones, if needed, will accompany the students on each bus. Students will then spend two days and one night visiting various sites in Asheville, NC. Some of the sights will include:

- Biltmore House
- Antler Hill Village
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Adventure Center of Asheville

The cost of the trip is \$380. This price is all-inclusive; it includes accommodations for one night in a hotel, all meals, round-trip motor coach transportation, security guards in the hotels throughout the night, and admission to all sites.

Payments need to be made to Group Travel, LLC, in five installments. The payment needs to be postmarked to Group Travel by the following dates:

October 25 -- \$95
December 05 -- \$95
January 24 -- \$95
February 28 --\$95

All payments are to be mailed to Group Travel, LLC (see attached payment slips) or paid online (<https://www.grouptravelllc.com/payments/>). Payments may be made by check or money order. **The fee for late payments is \$25 for each late payment.** There will be a \$25 returned check fee for any payments that do not clear the bank. **A non-refundable deposit of \$95** is included in the first payment. Within 30 days of the trip (March 2nd), no refund will be made for students who are unable to go on the trip for **any reason** (discipline, chooses not to go, etc.). Before March 02, 2020, Group Travel will refund any individual cancellations, **minus the \$95 deposit.**

Advance payments may be made at any time, in any amount. Account balances must be current with the above-mentioned payment dates, or the \$25 late fee must be imposed. Accounts must be paid in full and all checks cleared by March 27th, or your student will not be able to travel and no fees will be refunded.

In order for your child to be eligible to go on the trip, he/she must comply with the school behavior criteria. This includes: (1) **no** out of school suspensions, (2) no more than three full days in Behavior Intervention (any partial days assigned by the administrator will be totaled and included as part of the three full days), (3) no drug, alcohol, weapons, stealing, or fighting violations, and (4) adherence to all school and

district policies for both in-school and out of school activities (please see attached Travel Contract). In addition, each child who wishes to go on this trip must return all required information and permission forms.

We hope your child will be able to participate in this educational and fun trip. If you have any questions, please contact Shana Hannibal at 981-1459 between 11:30 and 1:15 or email shannibal@rhmail.org

Paper work needs to be turn into Mrs. Stuart (**Team 8-1**), Mrs. McKinney (**Team 8-1**), or Ms. Watson (**Team 8-3**). Also, if you would like to serve as a parent chaperone, please send a note with your child to his/her contact teacher. The number of chaperones will depend on the number of students going on the trip, and is often not confirmed until mid February. Parent chaperones will be asked to pay the full price of \$380.

If you lose any of the attached paperwork, you can download it from the school's website before the final due date. Just look for the 8th Grade Trip Info link.