Field Trips

Teachers are encouraged to plan field trips as an extension of the classroom experience. Before scheduling a trip, the teacher needs to demonstrate to administration how the trip supports the objectives of their class. Students should expect to engage in educational experiences on field trips and conduct themselves on the bus and the trip according to bus rules and our Family Handbook.  Arrangements and reservations are handled by the teacher in advance and parents are informed of related costs and the schedule.  Parents should help children use good judgment in spending money for souvenirs, but teachers do have the privilege of setting spending limits for students where necessary.  Parents will be asked to sign permission slips for school trips. Costs for field trips are the responsibility of the families and will be included with the tuition statement each year.  The school will track fundraising activities of students in Grades 11 & 12 who choose to raise money for the Senior Trip students take in Grade 12.  Money that the student raises in a fundraiser will be credited to the student’s field trip expense.

Below is a brief description of the types of field trips classes take.

       Grades K-6 – ½ day or 1 day trips, within our school day.  Grade 6 takes an additional overnight trip to Camp Swatara to participate in their Outdoor Education Program

       Grades 7-8 – ½ day or 1 day trips, within our school day, including an additional all-day trip.

       Grades 9-12 – ½ day or 1-day trips, within our school day with additional overnight trips from 2 or 3 days up to a week.

The list below represents past field trip destinations that may be considered in the future and the grade they are typically associated with.

Kindergarten:             Weaver’s Apple Orchard

                                    Akron Park & Hands-On-House

                                    That Fish Place

1st Grade:                    Herr Foods, Inc.

Garden of Five Senses/Lancaster County Park

Scattered Acres Dairy Farm

Fairmount Homes (Christmas Caroling)

2nd Grade:                   Fulton Bank & E.K. Martin Eggs (1/2 day)

                                    Ten Thousand Villages Educational Program & Scavenger Hunt

                                    Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania & Strasburg Railroad

                                    Fairmount Homes (Christmas Caroling)

                                    Tabernacle Reproduction

3rd Grade:                    Landis Valley Farm Museum

                                    Oregon Dairy

                                    Global Aid Network Service Trip

                                    Lancaster Symphony

4th Grade:                    Reamstown History Walking Tour

Indian Echo Caverns/Zoo America

Hans Herr House

5th Grade:                    Global Aid Network Service Trip

Valley Forge Bike Trip

Harrisburg: State Museum, Capital Building Tour, Strawberry Square, Train Ride

6th Grade:                    Valentine’s Day Service Trip (students bring canned goods)

Camp Swatara, overnight camping trip

Lancaster Science Factory, Lancaster City Tour, Central Market, Printing Press (.917 Club) and Pottery Works

7th Grade:Philadelphia

                                    Shenk’s Ferry & Safe Harbor Dam

8th Grade:                    Baltimore Inner Harbor

                                    Bridge Engineering Tour

9th Grade:                    Washington D.C. (2 nights)

                                    Oregon Dairy/4 Seasons Produce

                                    Chesapeake Bay Foundation Campout (2 nights)

10th Grade:                  Creation Museum, Kentucky (2 nights)

11th Grade:                  New York City, DestiNATIONS International (3 nights)

12th Grade:                  Nicaragua, Olive Branch Mennonite Mission (1 week)

 Ephrata Mennonite School plans a Senior trip to Nicaragua (Olive Branch Mennonite Missions), typically each January or February. Below are details related to that trip:

Airfare/lodging for one week (approximately $850)

Note: Seniors and chaperones will be asked to honor the protocol of Olive Branch Mennonite Missions while in Nicaragua. Practically this means:

       Heeding their advice regarding travel, safety and curfew concerns.

       Meeting the mission’s standard of dress

o   Men: No shorts or sleeveless shirts

o   Ladies: Dresses or jumpers that are not form-fitting and fall past the knees at all times and a flowing black veil.

o   General: Formal attire for church services (no denim or t-shirts)

       Seeking to befriend and encourage the Nicaraguan church and community.

       Easing the job of their hosts through providing financial reimbursement, food items, and other services needed while they are there.

       Signing off on OBMM’s Visitor Guidelines.

Electronic media use is not permitted on field trips or other off-campus excursions during the school day. Exceptions for high school students on overnight trips will be discussed with them prior to the trip.