

SENIOR TRIP

Every year, the seniors take a field trip to **Washington, D.C.** All seniors are welcome to attend. All dates/payment deadlines are included in the student planner.

Trip Cost:

The cost of the trip is TBD at this time, but it will likely be close to last year's cost of \$1,400. If this amount changes, it will likely be within roughly \$50 of this estimated cost.

This covers travel, hotel, tickets for plays and other activities, and most meals.

Spending money for incidentals (souvenirs, snacks, etc.) will be minimal. Students will be in charge of their own spending money and will not deposit spending money into their trip accounts.

Trip Dates:

We will leave SCHS on Saturday, April 13 at 6pm (tentative time) and will return late in the evening on Saturday, April 20.

Payment Deadlines:

First Half Payment (Nonrefundable): by Dec. 12

Second Half Payment: by Feb. 15

NOTE

We need at least the first half by Dec. 12, but students can begin making deposits in any amount at any time to Ms. Ahlbrand. Feel free to contact her with any questions or concerns about payments:

aahlbrand@westclarkschools.com

Fundraising:

This fundraiser will take place in the fall, and students can participate by paying attention to the announcements about the start date and picking up an order form and information sheet in Ms. Ahlbrand's room. **All order forms are to be turned in by the deadline (TBD) in order for all items to arrive in time for Winter Break.**

Senior Trip Information Meeting:

This meeting is mandatory for all students attending the trip. It will be held on **Thursday, April 9 during IRP**. At that time, students will receive permission slips and a detailed itinerary explaining each day's events and appropriate style of dress for each occasion.

Tips for Senior Trip

If you would like to get a head start on preparing, shopping, and planning for the trip, please see attached document that details how to best plan for the trip.

SENIOR TRIP MEETING – IRP (Thursday, April 9)

At this meeting, you will receive a permission slip and a detailed itinerary for the trip that outlines each day's events. Mr. Crabtree will speak to you at length about the rules, expectations, and other details, but I wanted to give you and your parents a heads up about certain aspects of the trip so you can have more time to shop, pack, and plan. These tips are based on my 9 years of experience as one of the chaperones of this trip, and although I can't promise that his itinerary won't have some differences than previous years (Mr. C loves to surprise the students with a few extra perks here and there while on the trip!), I can assure you that, for the most part, you'll be in good shape if you heed my advice. I hope this helps!!

WHAT TO WEAR?!

Mr. C has taken seniors to DC for over 30 years, and he loves to brag that his students look better than anyone else in the city. So, we prefer that students take pride in their appearance wherever we go. Here are some specifics:

TRAVEL:

While traveling to and from DC, dress comfortably! You'll be on a bus for hours, so sweats and t-shirts are just fine.

DAYTIME:

On most days, you'll have some free time to tour the National Mall/Smithsonian with your classmates. You can dress how you want for this, but I suggest comfortable shoes and clothes. Layers are also a good idea since at this time in DC it can be cold in the morning and quite warm in the afternoon.

EVENINGS:

For 3 different evenings (Ford's Theatre, The Kennedy Center, and the dinner cruise on the last night), you'll want to dress up. Think about how you would dress if you were going to the Kentucky Center for the Arts, for example. No jeans, tennis shoes, flip flops, t-shirts, etc. Think slacks, khakis, skirts, dresses, blouses, polo/golf shirts, etc. Just look nice ☺

For 2 other evenings (usually 1 is spent at a great shopping mall where you'll eat at a food court and have time to shop around, and the other is ordinarily a night on the town seeing a movie...not sure what his plan is this year) you can dress casually. Even though these aren't formal evenings, we still want you to look good.... nice, but comfortable. I think Mr. C's biggest issue on nights like this involves ripped up jeans and dirty t-shirts with holes, etc....so avoid those.

WHEN DO WE *REALLY* DRESS UP?!

Reserve your best two outfits for our day at Arlington Cemetery and our Capitol picture. I remember those events falling on the same day only once...most years they are on separate days. Boys – this means a shirt and tie with slacks...no suit jacket is required, but if you have one, go for it! Some guys sport a jacket, some don't. The important thing is a button shirt with a tie. To save money, maybe plan with your roommates to each bring one tie and just swap around if you want. Ladies – most girls wear a nice sundress with a light button sweater, or skirts/dress pants with a nice blouse. Mr. C will tell you to wear your "Sunday best" for these two events.

OTHER CLOTHING ADVICE:

Day 1 in DC is by far the toughest. You've been on a bus all night and will walk all the next afternoon. We go to Lincoln Memorial first thing then head to the hotel for a nice breakfast. BUT we do NOT check in at that time. You will NOT have access to your suitcase until we check in later that day after our walking tour. So here's what I always do....I have a small carry on that I keep on the bus (just a backpack) where I keep a hairbrush, rubber bands and bobby pins, deodorant, a toothbrush and toothpaste, and my makeup...after breakfast, you can find one of the hotel bathrooms to freshen up before we head out for our walking tour. To save space, I don't pack an entirely different outfit in my carry on, which is why I dress in some kind of matching sweats or sweat suit when we leave for the trip rather than pajama pants or the like. Overall, we're all going to look pretty rough.....no "nice" clothes are required for that first afternoon of walking and touring.

The weather in DC is kind of unpredictable, so you need to be prepared for anything. Pack a small travel umbrella and outfit layers. Once you get your itinerary, go to weather.com and look up the weather for the week that we'll be in DC.... write out the forecast next to each day on your itinerary and try to plan ahead.

The hotel has a pool, but it's not open when we're there. I don't see the need to pack a swim suit.

There is a small gym in the hotel (2nd floor, I think) so feel free to bring workout clothes if you think you'll need them. Also, Mr. C runs every morning and invites students to join him, so keep that in mind.

For Arlington, I can't stress to you enough the importance of taking care of your FEET. Arlington is quite an amazing place, but the walk is grueling and steep, and the morning is long. While you need to look your best, I encourage you to consider your choice of shoes. Even the most broken-in pair of shoes will feel like brand new on a day like this. Boys, you may be fine. Ladies, think about taking a purse that's just big enough to toss in a pair of flip flops or something. You don't want to lug a big bag all over Arlington, so think light...just enough room for a change of shoes once we reach the top and participate in the wreath ceremony and changing of the guards. While I'm on the topic of sore feet, bring band-aids!!!!!!

For the cruise on the last night, Mr. C will tell you no flip flops allowed, but I want to warn you that the deejay will NOT allow you to take your shoes off on the dance floor. So keep in mind that after dinner, you'll be dancing, so I don't think your highest heeled shoes are the best choice on that night.

MEALS

Most of them are covered. With the exception of the first breakfast at the hotel, however, breakfast will be on your own. Our hotel has a café, a McDonalds, and a CVS. Over the years, I notice that many students either bring snacks in a duffle bag to keep in their rooms for breakfast and late night snacks (once we return each evening, everything in the hotel is pretty much closed for the night.... we have snack / coke machines on the floor, too, but that can get expensive). Depending on your appetite and whether or not you bring snacks (don't bring drinks...Mr. C provides those on the bus), you may not need a whole lot of extra spending money for food.

SPENDING MONEY

All the Smithsonian museums are free, with the exception of IMAX shows and the like, so you won't need to work in admission fees when considering how much money to bring with you. All planned events (Ford's, Kennedy, etc.) are already worked into the cost of the trip. The only spending money you'll really need is for souvenirs. You'll find all kinds of souvenir vendors in DC with inexpensive t-shirts, etc. There's also a Hard Rock Café next to Ford's Theatre. You will not have any trouble finding endless inexpensive gift shops in the area. And again, we do spend one evening in a mall, so if you're a shopper, plan accordingly.

I think that covers it. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.
I hope this helps.... it'll be here before you know it!!!!