

Washington D.C./Gettysburg Senior Trip

Dear School Board Members,

November 29, 2022

I, Molly McDonald, am planning a senior trip to Washington D.C. and Gettysburg in the fall of 2024. The trip will include students observing, experiencing, and studying the history that we will be learning about in class. The trip is through an educational tour company called EF tours.

EF tours is an accredited tour company that has been providing travel opportunities for students for over 55 years. The following quotes are from EF tours:

“Experiential travel is simply how we bring learning to life. At EF Explore America, we’re always expanding what we show travelers so educators can expand what they teach. Our compelling itineraries are crafted specifically for you and your students, rooted in human connection, and—above all else—fun. Because empowering a personal journey for every student who travels with us is just as important as handling the details of their physical trip.”

- EF Tours regarding Education

“Your students’ safety is our number one priority. We would never send a traveler to a location we believe to be unsafe—and with our extensive global presence, our best-in-the-industry experience, and our collaboration with U.S. and international authorities, that’s a statement we can back up with real insight.

Whether it’s a worldwide pandemic or a sprained ankle, a missed flight or confusing medical paperwork, we’ve seen it all and we have the resources to handle it. In other words, whatever happens, we’re ready.”

- EF Tours regarding Safety

My intention is to have the trip occur in September or October as it is guided by curriculum. Dates are flexible and my hope is to work with education departments and the activity director to make sure students are able to fully enjoy this experience with minimal distraction from at home obligations.

The trip costs \$2100 - \$2400 depending on the amount of students that sign up. This cost includes meals (breakfast and dinner), airfare, bussing while in D.C., museum costs, and hotel accommodations (along with hotel security). When students enroll they must provide \$100 as a membership fee which will be applied toward the program fee. Other payments will continue as we prepare for the trip, currently if students/parents budget from January of 2023 to the trip date in 2024 it will cost about \$100 a month with payments not including fundraising. Students will have a fundraising website that will give them opportunities to raise money through family and friends. I also hope to have concession stand opportunities to add money to the general fund to disperse equally among student travelers.

This experience will help solidify American history which they are learning in the **classroom**. It is important to give students this opportunity to fully immerse themselves in American history and how it is represented in the modern era. Students will also have the opportunity to visit government institutions and actually see where the rules and laws we study are created.

This is an inclusive opportunity for students who do not participate in extracurricular activities that allow for travel. I look forward to providing students of Crosby-Ironton with an experience of learning and an opportunity to leave the state of Minnesota which is not always plausible for all students. I experienced a trip like this twice as a high school student and it made material in the classroom so much more meaningful. Regardless, it is also an opportunity for students to bond together and add another memory to their final year at Crosby-Ironton High School. I hope to create the tradition of a senior trip with all senior classes that students can be excited about and plan for financially. Eventually, I hope to eventually have classes vote on destinations that pertain to American history i.e. Boston, Pennsylvania, New York, or Williamsburg. With this in mind, teachers can plan for this adjustment and prepare for missed class days that will occur. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Molly McDonald