



# McCall - Donnelly High School

Developing Life Long Learners

February 10, 2025

To: McCall-Donnelly School Board

From: Mike Kraemer, Social Studies Department Chair

Through: Tim Thomas, Superintendent

This letter is being written in accordance with board policy 2320. I would like to request approval from the board to begin planning the Close-Up trip to Washington DC for the spring of 2026. This has been a biannual trip the Social Studies department has sponsored for the past 30 years.

The social studies department would like to continue offering this trip to high school students, as it becomes an extension of the classroom and offers tremendous educational opportunities. The trip, created in partnership with the Close-Up program allows students to immerse themselves in both government and history curriculums, while also meeting state educational standards for US History I, US II, and Government.

We are excited to offer this educational opportunity to the students of MDHS with permission from the school board to move forward with the planning for this trip in the spring of 2026. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Kraemer

Social Studies Dept. Chair

# CLOSE UP HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM - WASHINGTON, DC

## SUNDAY

Arrive in Washington, DC

**Hotel Check-in:** Meet with your Close Up Concierge & explore DC with your school if time allows

5:45 pm **Teacher and Staff Dinner**

6:00 pm **Student Welcome Dinner**

6:45 pm **Program Orientation & Community Building:**  
Meet Close Up staff and explore your purpose and goals for the week

7:15 pm **Opening Workshop\*:**  
What are the biggest issues that we face in our democracy today?

8:30 pm **Facts & Fun: Ultimate Trivia Night:** Show off your knowledge of DC with new teammates from across the country!

10:00 pm Social Time

10:30 pm Room Check

## MONDAY

8:00 am Hot Breakfast Buffet

9:00 am **Jefferson Memorial Study Visit\*\*:** How do the rights outlined in the Founding Documents apply to our view of liberty today?

10:15 am **Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Study Visit:** What rights are needed to ensure equality and promote the welfare of citizens in the U.S.?

11:30 am **Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Study Visit:** How do we see MLK's view of justice in the U.S. today?

12:45 pm **Lunch at L'Enfant Plaza**

2:00 pm **Embassy Discovery:** Step foot on "foreign soil" and discuss the international political landscape

3:00 pm **Citizen Action Sites:** Get inspired by examples of citizens making a difference in their communities and the nation

4:15 pm **U.S. Marine Corps Memorial:** Visit the larger-than-life representation of the iconic flag-raising at Iwo Jima

5:45 pm **American Political Values Workshop:** Examine the connections between liberty, equality, and justice

7:00 pm Hotel Dinner

8:00 pm **Current Issues Discussion:** Debate hot topics with your new friends from across the country

## TUESDAY

8:00 pm Hot Breakfast Buffet

9:00 am **War Memorials Study Visit:** What do the WWII, Vietnam, and Korean Memorials say about those who have served and sacrificed?

12:40 pm **Lincoln Memorial:** How does the imagery of the Lincoln Memorial portray his legacy?

1:15 pm **Lunch at Reagan Building and International Trade Center**

3:35 pm **Group Photo**  
**Washington Exploration** (ex: Iwo Jima Memorial, Air Force Memorial or Pentagon 9/11 Memorial)

5:30 pm Dinner at Pentagon City

6:15 pm Return to Hotel

7:00 pm **Capitol Hill Prep Workshop**

8:20 pm **Mock Congress:** Debate, amend, and vote on the same issues elected representatives are currently considering

9:30 pm **Student/Teacher Meetings**

10:00 pm Social Time

10:30 pm Room Check

## WEDNESDAY

6:45 am Hot Breakfast Buffet

8:15 am **Metro Transfer to Hill**  
**Capitol Hill Day:** Walk the halls of Congress and get an insider's look at how our government operates

8:15am Get an exclusive, insider's look at how our government operates by **meeting with members of Congress or their staff**

**Tour the Capitol and discover the exhibits in the Capitol Visitor Center**

**Lunch on the National Mall**

**Explore the Library of Congress,** the largest library in the world, and view the symbolic art and architecture

Pop into one of the **Smithsonian Museums, Monument or visit National Archives**

5:10 pm **Dinner at DC's Historic Union Station**

6:45 pm **Bus Transfer to Evening Activities**

8:00 pm **DC Cultural Event:** See a performance at a renowned theater, cultural event, or night on the town

10:00 pm Social Time

11:00 pm Room Check

## THURSDAY

8:00 am Hot Breakfast Buffet

9:00 am **White House Study Visit:** Discuss the purpose of protests and what restrictions of protests are legitimate

10:30 am **Citizen Action Seminar:** Hear from an advocacy organization & how they are impacting the community

12:00 pm **Neighborhood Study Visit and Lunch:** Explore DC off the beaten path, e.g. U Street, Chinatown

2:15 pm **Arlington National Cemetery:** Visit our nation's most hallowed ground and witness the Changing of the Guard

5:15 pm Return to Hotel

6:00 pm **Final Workshop:** How will you stay engaged on issues that matter to you?

8:00 pm **Farewell Banquet and Dance:** Enjoy a fun-filled evening with your new friends as you dance the night away

11:00 pm Room Check

## FRIDAY

7:00 am Breakfast

**Sightsee in Washington:** Spend some more time in the city with your school if time allows

Depart for Home

\* Workshops are small learning communities comprised of students from various states. Each workshop community is led by the same Close Up Program instructor for the duration of the trip.

\*\* Study Visits led by highly-trained instructors provide unique opportunities to learn using historic sites and institutions as living classrooms.

Sample schedule subject to change.

**CALL: 800-CLOSE UP (256-7387)**

**EMAIL: info@CloseUp.org**

**VISIT: www.CloseUp.org**

**CONNECT:**



**CLOSE UP**  
WASHINGTON DC

## CLOSE UP PRICE SUMMARY

**Selected Registration: WASHINGTON D.C. (H) 3/15/2026**

### PRICE SUMMARY

Listed below is a summary of the options and preferences you have selected for your program.

Tuition Price Breakdown	
Program Tuition:	\$1,048.00
Room, board, and in-town transportation:	\$529.00
Safety and Security:	\$80.00
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$1,657.00</b>
Selected Options	
Transportation package from:	BOISE \$698.00
Program Options:	N/A
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$698.00</b>
Total	
<b>Student Cost:</b>	<b>\$2355.00</b>
<b>Adult Cost:</b>	<b>\$2705.00</b>

**The totals above reflect Early Bird pricing which is valid until: 6/30/2025**

### Travel Preferences

We would prefer to fly out early Saturday, March 14th, so we have some time in DC before program starts on Sunday.

### Payment Schedule

Amount	Due Date
\$500 due:	10/28/2025
Balance/Final Payment	1/15/2026

### Cancellation Deadlines

Total Amount Non-Refundable	Cancellation Date
-----------------------------	-------------------

<b>Total Amount Non-Refundable</b>	<b>Cancellation Date</b>
Initial \$500 payment	<b>At time of payment</b>
Full program price/100% of account payments	<b>1/15/2026</b>

### Other Important Dates

<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
Enrollment and special request forms due:	<b>10/28/2025</b>
Travel and Hotel information available	<b>1/21/2026</b>

### I understand and agree to the following:

1. Close Up Travel price is only **valid for participants who pay the \$500.00 nonrefundable and nontransferable deposit by the deposit deadline.**
2. **Close Up's Terms and Conditions (/terms/2026 Terms And Conditions-031824.pdf).**

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[FOLLOW US \(/FOLLOW-US/\)](#)