

Welcome!

One of the most exciting opportunities for learning at North Branch Middle School is the annual 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. During the trip we will reinforce many of the themes studied in our eighth grade American History curriculum. This is an educational experience of a lifetime. **This year's trip has been scheduled for April 28th – May 2nd, 2020.**

The materials in this packet will help you get started in planning for this trip. Parents should register for the trip online on the website for Brightspark Travel. **The school will not accept any payments or registrations.**

We are only filling up complete buses this year. With this class, numbers-wise, we expect three. We encourage as many students who have a desire to go to register for the trip! We also encourage as many chaperones as possible. However, our optimum number of chaperones to students is 1:4. **If we find that we have an overabundance of chaperones and limited seats available, chaperones will be cut to make room for students to attend.** Our biggest priority is to send as many students on this trip as possible. After the second bus is filled, parents and students will be placed on a "waiting list" until we can fill an entire third bus. Students will be added in the order from which you enroll. Parents will be added on an as needed basis. Understand that these are prices for filling three whole busses. Any unclaimed seats may affect the cost of the trip.

Information you need to consider when making a decision about the trip:

- **Your trip price includes cancellation insurance. If for any reason you need to cancel, you will be refunded the full amount of the trip minus the cost of the insurance.**
- Fundraising monies will be sent to Brightsparks at the end of February/early March.
- The fundraising money from students who choose NOT to go on the trip will stay with the Class of 2024. This money will not be used to fund DC.
- Students/parents dropped from the trip due to academic / attendance / discipline / financial issues may still be responsible for fixed costs if their cancellation puts our group numbers below our goal of paying participants.

***please carefully consider the following student expectations for the trip**

*students will have no more than 3 Es total, for the year, on the 1st and 2nd Trimester report card or on the 3rd Trimester progress report.

*students will have no more than 15 days of being absent. Note: 6 absent periods equal 1 day, so if you miss every Monday 1st period that will add up!

- Students not going on the trip are still required to come to school on the days that we are gone on the trip.

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- ~~Parent chaperones are a vital part of the trip. All chaperones need to fill out a Central~~ Registry Clearance (background check); these are available in the Middle School Office. **There will be an initial check and another check two weeks before the trip.**
 - We are requiring students to purchase three student t-shirts for the DC trip. This provides us with group unity and safety. You also need to pay \$25 for these shirts. Please make checks payable to North Branch Area Schools. (we will collect money for the shirts sometime in the fall)

Questions can be referred to Mr. James (ajames@nbbrncos.net) or Mrs. Bosch (obosch@nbbrncos.net).

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Register for the trip at www.brightsparktravel.com

Select "Login/Register" – Enter email – Select "Get Started"

TOUR CODE: TKZ2V4T

Brightspark customer service: 1-877-545-0070

REGISTER FOR THE TRIP ASAP 😊

We sincerely hope to see you on the trip,

Mr. James & Mrs. Bosch

2019-2020 Eighth Grade Class Sponsors