

PIONEER VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
GRADES 8 & 9 PHILADELPHIA/WASHINGTON DC TRIP
JANUARY 3 – 7, 2023

Dear Parents,

It's almost time for our Philadelphia/DC trip! The details are being solidified and the kids are getting excited!

Please fill out the paperwork attached and return the signed papers to **Mrs. Maynard** by **Tuesday, December 13, 2022**. Please go over all the rules with your child, then sign and return. We will carry basic first aid supplies and needed OTC medications at all times.

Please note that students need to be at school **at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, January 3rd**. It takes a while to get all of them checked in, meds sorted out, and baggage loaded. We will return on **Saturday night (1/7/23) at about 11:00-11:30 PM**.

Regarding luggage: Please plan on **one suitcase** per child and **one backpack**. The suitcase will go in the luggage compartment below the bus, and the backpack will go on the bus with the student. **The students must also bring a bag lunch for Tuesday to eat before we get to Philadelphia.**

Faculty on the trip will be Mrs. Feragne, Mrs. Maynard, Mrs. Aikman, Mrs. Funchion, Mrs. Souza, Mr. Malloy, and Mrs. Kerns. The other chaperones are Mrs. Sprecher and Mr. Peterson. This gives us a chaperone to student ratio of 1 to 5 or 6. Students will be assigned to a specific group and chaperone; room assignments are arranged by the faculty. Students will know who is in their group before we tour Philadelphia on Tuesday (1/3/23); room assignments will be given out to the students as they get off the bus at the hotel. We have assigned rooms and groups with the best interests of the entire group and trip in mind.

Behavior expectations: We expect students to obey chaperones and guides immediately and without questioning. The rules of every site we visit must be observed.

Dress for cold weather: We can't predict the weather this far in advance. However, we've experienced weather in DC from bitter, windy low teens to balmy 50-degree temps. A **winter coat** is a must! Students must have a **hat and gloves/mittens**. A good **scarf** is also recommended. Keeping a rain poncho on the bus in case of rain is a good idea as well. **We recommend layers of clothing: Under Armor/thermal, T-shirt, sweatshirt, fleece, plus the winter coat.** We travel no matter the weather. We will keep a very close eye on the weather forecast once we are about 10 days out.

We've never lost a child or chaperone! Yes, the students will be tired when they get home, but they will have had a great experience! With that in mind, we ask that you be at the school by the time the bus arrives on Saturday evening so that chaperones can return home to their families in a timely manner. We appreciate your prayers for a safe and fun trip!

The students will be going on this trip during J-Term for PVCA, which runs Tuesday, January 3 – Monday, January 9. **Because J-Term will still be going on Monday (1/9), students in grades 8 & 9 WILL NOT HAVE SCHOOL that day.** Hopefully, this will give them time to get some much-needed rest before coming back to school on Tuesday (1/10).

Sincerely,



Mrs. Wendy Maynard

Middle School Coordinator