

Washington, DC Information and Reminders

Hello Everyone!

We are less than two weeks from departure! (Yeah!) We are ready to go, and the chaperones and students are very excited to get started!

I wanted to touch base with everyone to answer some logistical questions and go over what will happen at drop-off, what to bring, emergency procedures, etc. I apologize for the lengthy letter, but I wanted to cover as many details as possible.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns. You can contact me at rcalzini@masconomet.org.

Thanks,

- Rebecca Calzini

Wednesday morning

- ✚ The busses will be at Masco by 5:30 AM
- ✚ We are loading from 5:30 – 5:50. (We MUST leave by 6:00 to avoid major traffic delays and Masco mornings.)
- ✚ Carpooling is encouraged and recommended!
- ✚ Enter at the main entrance (by the sign) and pull up to the FRONT of the building.
- ✚ Students and their luggage will be dropped off, and they will then board their designated bus with their backpacks ONLY. The bus driver will stow their luggage under the bus.
- ✚ The line of drop-offs will need to keep moving in a steady stream to get everyone onto the busses in a timely and safe manner.
- ✚ Attendance will be taken and once all are accounted for, we will leave!


Students should bring:

- ✚ Money for breakfast (We will be eating at a rest stop near MA/CT border.)
 - Note: Lunch is paid for as part of the tour
- ✚ Money for souvenirs
- ✚ Comfortable shoes and clothes (What they wear in the AM is what they will wear for touring Philadelphia - which is a couple of hours long.)
- ✚ Watch

 Camera

 1 backpack for the bus

- In the backpack, students may bring:
 - Snacks (No nuts)
 - Drinks in containers that close. (i.e., no pop-top cans) Remember - no glass bottles
 - Something to do (e.g., DVD player, phone, games, etc.)
 - Airpods/Headphones (Please!)
 - Sweatshirt/layers/rain gear – NO access to luggage under bus!

 1 Standard size suitcase (with orange Gerber Travel tag attached)

- Note: Orange tags will be handed out Tuesday at the student meeting
- Students may pack snacks and drinks in their suitcase to have in the hotel
 - There will be limited time, if any, to get snacks/drinks in the hotel

Safety Information

In the event of an emergency, I will contact Mr. Dillon who will then coordinate from here and initiate the school's emergency protocol, if needed.

When they get on the bus at Masco, students will be given a **lanyard** that has an emergency 1-800 number to contact Gerber Travel if they get lost or separated from the group. Students will be expected to have this on them at all times when touring.

Nurse/Medication

All medication that is being administered by the nurse is due to the MS Nurse on Monday, 11/18, in a properly labeled prescription bottle. Any questions, please call Gwen Lemire at ext. 22120.

NOTE: By law, any medication that is a controlled substance **must** be held by the nurse.

Answers from Parent Meeting

At the parent meeting, there were a couple of questions I was not sure of so I asked Gerber Travel. The answers are below:

- ❖ Most of the busses have seatbelts but not all of them. (They have not assigned specific busses to us yet, so it is still unknown if all will have seatbelts or not but we will have this information next week if you wish to know if your child's specific bus has seatbelts.)
- ❖ Note: The busses are equipped with charging outlets and each bus has a bathroom for emergency use.

- ❖ The overnight security guards are from a local security company in DC. They are licensed and bonded.

Emergency Procedures (Gerber Tours has a safety protocol in place. I will hand it out to students on the Tuesday before we leave. The basic protocol is listed below.)

If there is an evacuation in a building or monument:

Students will evacuate following the directions of the security people in that building or police/national guard at the monuments. Students will then meet the Masconomet group at a pre-designated spot. (The tour guides will tell students this meeting spot before we get off the bus at each stop.)

All of the tour guides and chaperones will have my cell phone number and I will coordinate information to Mr. Dillon here at Masco.