

IBER HOLMES GOVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Robert Bickford, Principal

Brigitte Cunningham, Assistant Principal

To: Dr. McCoy, Supt. and Raymond School Board
From: Felicia Formisano & Bob Bickford
Re: Proposed 8th Grade Class Trip, May, 2021
Date: January 15, 2021

As you know, it is tradition for the eighth grade class to take a trip in the spring. For a long time, that trip has been to Washington DC. Last year, due to unforeseen circumstances, we had to cancel the trip. After a discussion with the tour company and Mr. Bickford, it was decided that Washington DC was not a probable destination for this year either. After research, thought and consideration, I would like to propose an alternative eighth grade trip for the 2020-2021 school year.

We would like to propose a trip to Adventure Bound, a vacation destination in Northern Maine that offers white water rafting, rock climbing, and other fun activities to our students. This trip would be a two day, one night trip for the students and would be able to be done in two groups, A and B, to avoid mixing of cohorts. Bob has chaperoned two other middle school groups on overnight field trips with this organization.

Adventure bound has stated their COVID-19 protocols, which align with the district protocols. When in any building, students and staff are required to wear masks. This includes while rock climbing, as it is done indoors. Masks will be required while riding on the bus. Mask breaks will be outdoors when everyone is at least 6 feet apart. During meals, students and staff will be seated 6 feet apart and encouraged to sit outside if the weather permits, ensuring social distancing while eating. The destination offers 24 sleeping units, allowing for social distancing even at night. All units are 14 feet by 14 feet and, to implement social distancing, the destination recommends 4-5 people in each unit. With approximately 60 students attending (30 in each group), we would need approximately 6 units, with one adult per unit. Adventure Bound offers a white water rafting trip to our students. The boats are 16 feet long and 8 feet long. They typically hold 6-8 students and staff with one guide from Adventure Bound. No masks are permitted on the boat, as this is a major safety risk if the masked person were to fall out of the boat. With this being said, the students are outdoors and spread apart on the boat.

The trip would include three meals, lodging, ropes course, an indoor climbing wall experience for all students, rafting orientation, a 12 mile rafting adventure, and photos. The trip up to Adventure Bound will be about \$162.00 per student, the bus trip will be about \$128.00 per student, and \$20 per student for lunch and dinner. The total per student would be about \$310. This trip will allow the students to work together, building onto the community building done in the classroom daily.

We would like to propose to use some of the IHGMS field trip funds budgeted for the FY21 school year to partially offset the cost of transportation.

If we are fortunate enough to get School Board approval to move forward with the trip, then we will share with the 8th grade students and their families to see what the level of interest is as well be able to gather any additional information the Board may request. Due to the changing nature of the community transmission rates of Covid-19 we will need to learn from Adventure Bound their cancelation process and timeline. Contingency plans and timeline will be based on additional information that will be gathered if the trip is approved, or conditionally approved.

Draft itinerary:

Day 1:

- Leave IHGMS at 8:00 am, 3 hrs., 30 mins. Plus lunch stop, included
- Arrive at Adventure Bound, ~1:00 pm, Check-in
- Afternoon (½ day) Ropes Course
- 6:00 pm Pizza/Salad/Fries/Drinks
- Indoor Rock Climbing Facilitated by Adventure Bound staff, masks required.
- Bunkhouse Lodging
 - (They have 24 units and can use as many as needed to achieve our group size and distancing requirements. (4-5 persons per unit)

Day 2

- 7:30 am Scrambled eggs/Pancakes/Sausage/Home Fries/Juice/Cold Cereal/Oatmeal
- 8:30 am Rafting Orientation and get dressed for the river
 - 12-mile class III-IV rafting trip with licensed Maine Guides, barbecue on the river bank, photos
- 3:30 pm Trip concludes and depart. 3 hrs. 30 mins. Plus dinner stop, included
- Arrive IHGMS ~8:30 pm

Group 1

- Leave morning of day 1, return evening of day 2

Group 2

- Leave morning of day 2, return evening of day 3

Three round trips for the busses, one each day.

Adventure Bound

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