



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

James F. Sullivan Middle School
150 Draper St.
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852
(978) 937-8993

Edward J. Foster, Ed.D.
Principal

Michael J. Banks
Assistant Principal

January 2, 2019

Jeannine Durkin
Acting Superintendent of Lowell Public Schools

Lowell Public Schools
Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Office
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

Dear Acting Superintendent Durkin,

At the Sullivan, we have been striving to improve the extra-curricular programming over the past year and a half. One of the items that has come up has been bringing back an eighth grade "overnight trip" to Washington D.C. We have started the discussions with parents and staff on this topic and were looking to attempt to plan it in future years.

We have a unique opportunity. The Dr. An Wang Middle School offers an overnight trip to Washington D.C. in late May 2019 for their eighth grade students. Mr. Matt Stahl, Wang Middle School principal, has graciously offered slots on their trip's bus/hotel/tours for a small contingent (estimated 10-20) of interested Sullivan grade eight students. This would be somewhat of a pilot for the Sullivan and we'd then hopefully be able to learn from it and plan our own trip in future years.

Thus, a small contingent of Sullivan 8th grade students would like permission to travel to Washington D.C through Capital Tours, Inc. with the Wang Middle School Grade 8 Washington D.C. Trip.

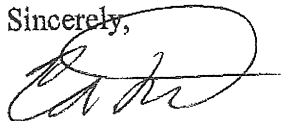
Some important details of the the trip are as follows:

- a. The trip will take place at the conclusion of the 2019 MCAS: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 through Friday, May 31, 2019.
- b. The trip is all inclusive and costs \$725.00 per student.

- c. The Dr. An Wang Middle School Grade 8 Washington D.C. trip has been organized since the fall 2018 and already approved by the Lowell School Committee. All the logistics are in place and the travel agency (Capital Tours, Incorporated) has OK'd adding students from the Sullivan at this date.
- d. We will be looking into ways (fundraising activities) to defray the cost for all participating students if necessary.
- e. This trip is at no cost to the Lowell School Department or the City of Lowell. Attached please find the parent letter, proposed itinerary, and the optional trip cancellation insurance.
- f. The Sullivan Middle School will provide its own chaperone(s): Currently Mr. Keith Valliere (Sullivan Math Teacher) will chaperone and more if needed.
- g. There is no fee for chaperones and substitutes will not be needed in teachers' absence from school.
- h. Although students will be missing 4 days of school, the trip to Washington, D.C. will enhance their understanding of multiple standards identified in the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks, U.S. History Learning Standards, most especially: **USI.11** Describe the purpose and functions of government. **USI.13** Explain why the United States government is classified as a democratic government. **USI.14** Explain the characteristics of American democracy, including the concepts of popular sovereignty and constitutional government, which includes representative institutions, Federalism, separation of powers, shared powers, checks and balances, and individual rights. **USI.15** Explain the varying roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments in the United States.

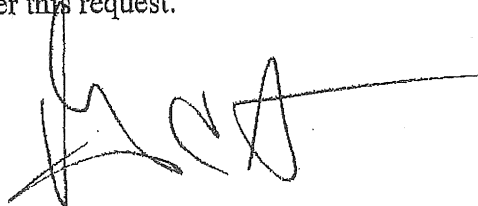
Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Sincerely,



Ed Foster

J.F. Sullivan Middle School Principal



Matthew C. Stahl

Dr. An Wang Middle School Principal