



TERRENCE A. THOMPSON • PRINCIPAL

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Hello WCSD Families,

We regret to inform you that we are cancelling our 8th Grade trip to Washington DC. We believe that this is the most responsible course of action to take in lieu of everything that is happening with the coronavirus (COVID-19). We have been running this trip for the past 14 years, and at no time prior have been faced with such a difficult set of circumstances.

EF Tours is the operator for the trip, and in speaking with them we do not believe that rescheduling the trip will be a feasible option for this school year. This of course leaves us with the concern about the money you have invested towards this experience. For those of you who have elected to purchase the Anytime Protection Insurance Plan through EF Explore America, you will be able to receive a monetary refund.

For those who did not elect to purchase the insurance we have a couple of options. Each of these options involve a travel voucher from EF Tours in lieu of this scheduled trip. Each travel voucher can be exchanged for a new trip (of equal value) at any point in time between the time of issue and September 2021. With that in mind we will actively research taking this class to Washington DC in the fall of 2020 (during the start of their freshman year). Clearly this is still in the idea phase, and we have a lot of research to do to see how we can make this happen.

The other thing we are being told about these vouchers is that they are in fact transferable. So in a worse case scenario, if we cannot use these vouchers on another trip there is a possibility that we can 'sell' them to next year's 8th grade class. The main obstacle with this at the moment is that EF Explore America has no way of managing the brokerage of such a transaction (Think of stubhub, where individuals can sell tickets to other individuals...EF Tours cannot do this). This too is still in the idea phase, but one that will at least offer some sort of financial reprieve for this situation.

In either case, we have some work to do on our end to further detail the options mentioned above. Once we are confident that we have enough detail to share with you we will convene an information night to share these details with you.

In the meantime if you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

Terrence A. Thompson  
Principal, Wappingers Junior High School