

## Government Unit Day 5

### Field Trip Day!!

For the parents:

Our fourth-grade class has the privilege of visiting the Pennsylvania State Capitol. This week the class has been learning about our society's history with human rights, how political leaders influence laws, individuals' interests, and agendas effect on decision making, and finally the importance of utilizing the voting process.

The individuals who are making the laws and governing decisions not only in PA but also for our Nation are enriched with these four topics every single day in their jobs. Lawmakers must consider every human right when creating and moving forward with their laws. They also must make sure that they are keeping the majority's best interest in mind rather than his or her one personal biases or agendas. It is hard to separate the two especially when one's upbringing and experiences influence their lives so heavily.

When we visit the capitol, students will have the opportunity to discuss what they have learned about turning a bill to a law with others, experience and interactive welcome center that is full of Pennsylvania history and fun facts, and even get a guided tour of our capitol building.

Then students are going to write a letter to the governor as well!! This is really exciting for the students. They will have a chance to show how much they have learned this week. They can thank him for his service to our state, ask any questions, and even suggest some new (appropriate) laws if they would like! The letters will be mailed out Friday evening!

(School hours: 8:15-2:30) We are going to be in Harrisburg from 10:00 to 1:00. (we will depart the school at 9:00) This allows us to go over rules, get the bus loaded, and make sure everyone has arrived! Please send your children in wearing SNEAKERS and with a BAG

LUNCH! There will be a lot of walking and we will be eating in Harrisburg. The students will have one hour to wander around the interactive welcome center. This has artifacts and digital learning activities for the kids to explore! (There is a gift shop however we will NOT be visiting it so please do not send money with the children). From 11:00 to 11:30 then 11:30 to 12:00 and 12:00-12:30 student groups will be rotating between lunch, the Moravian Mosaic Tile hunt, and a guided tour. After all of the groups have completed the rotation, the students will meet in a designated area where they will be given clipboards, paper, and a pencil to write a letter thanking the governor, asking any questions, and making any suggestions! Once all of the letters have been collected and put into envelopes it will be time to load back up onto the bus and head home so the students will be ready for dismissal at 2:30.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at the school or shoot me an email! If you would like to be a Chaperone, please send in a note with your child or again contact me through my email or phone. You may ride down on the bus or meet us there.

Directions from school:

- Turn right onto 17 to the Millerstown Square
- Turn left on old 22-322
- Merge onto 322 and head east toward Harrisburg
- Take front street or “fishing Creek” exit
- Front Street south
- Left onto Forster Street
- Right onto Commonwealth Avenue to fountain on right.

*Buses drop off at East Wing entrance on Commonwealth Avenue near the fountain.*

For the Students:

- **Summary of what we have learned and WHY we are going to the Capitol:**

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- **Rules:**

You will want to dress in comfortable clothing. You will be walking around all day long so you MUST wear sneakers.

You may not bring toys along with you that may get lost or stolen

If you choose to bring a cellular device, I am not liable if you are not responsible for your belongings.

You will not bring food or drink onto the bus (all bagged lunches will be put into a separate bag that will ride in the bus hutch)

You will sit on the bus at all times

You will always stay with your buddy

You will walk

You will show respect

You will be quiet and polite during the tour

If you have a question or comment you raise your hand

We will not be the only ones there so you must be respectful to other groups and pay attention to what is going on in order to not get lost or left behind.

You will not leave for ANY reason without asking an adult (this includes bathrooms and during the interactive welcome center)

**\*\*Violators will be punished accordingly.**

## **Reminder:**

Remember that the school bus driver is taking time out of their day to let use take their bus on a field trip. It costs the school a lot of money to take these trips so we must make the most of it. You are expected to follow the directions and remember that the school rules still apply even when we are not in the building. WE will keep the buss clean and we will respect our drivers' rules and expectations. We have a tight schedule to meet so everyone must be on time and ready to go for the day.

\*\*\*\* There will be four chaperones plus myself. Each chaperone will have a group of kids. I will create the groups that you will be assigned to. You will sit with your buddy on the bus there and back. You will sit in your group for lunch as well as the writing of the letter session. You will rotate to the sessions with your group as well. **STAY WITH YOUR GROUP.**

## **Capitol Tour Etiquette**

1. The Capitol is a working office building. Please act accordingly.
2. Please use your indoor voice while in the building.
3. Please do not run in the building. Use stairs and escalators with caution.
4. Keep to your scheduled tour and lunch times.
5. Be attentive to your guide's instructions at all times. Stay together as a group, especially when moving from one area to the next.
6. Silence your cell phone while on tour.
7. Roped off areas are off limits.

8. Do not block doorways or hallways.
9. Food and beverages are prohibited on tour and in the Interactive Welcome Center.
10. Enjoy your Capitol tour!

## **Agenda:**

9:00-10:00 Travel to CAPITOL

10:00-11:00 Interactive Welcome center Exploration

11:00 to 11:30 then 11:30 to 12:00 and 12:00-12:30 student groups will be rotating between lunch, the Moravian Mosaic Tile hunt, and a guided tour

12:30-1:15 writing the letter to the governor

1:20-2:20 Travel back to SCHOOL t

2:20-2:30 pack up and get onto the buses to head HOME