

# Piney Grove Middle School

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Savannah Adventure

### May 20-22, 2019



8<sup>th</sup> Grade students at Piney Grove Middle School have the opportunity to attend a memorable field trip being arranged for our students later this school year. We will have three days of exciting learning and fun.

During our Savannah Adventure, students will participate in the following activities:

- Take a trolley tour exploring the Historic District of Savannah and the beautiful homes and squares.
- Enjoy a Riverboat Cruise complete with dinner and a DJ.
- Learn about Georgia's diverse aquatic wildlife at the *Go-Fish Center* in Perry, GA.
- Explore the rich history of *Fort King George* on the shores of the Altamaha River
- Souvenir shop and sample sweet treats along cobble-stoned *River Street* in Savannah.
- Visit *Tybee Island Beach* and board a boat to watch dolphins in their natural environment.
- Play Putt-Putt Golf and enjoy arcade games with classmates at the *Fun Zone*.

### Cost and Payments

The cost of this trip, including transportation, hotel room (4 per room), all meals, security guards at night, guides, tips, entry fees, trip escorts and a t-shirt is **\$415.00**. This amount can be paid in full or in three installments:

**By 09/21/2018: Deposit of \$150**

**By 11/16/2018: \$150**

**By 2/08/2019: \$115**

- A one-time full payment can be made using **MyPaymentsPlus**, however, the total cost will be \$430.00

### Registration

To register your student for this experience, please review the information, **complete the 2 attached forms (application and behavior agreement)** and send them in with your deposit or full payment to Staci Gibson on or before **9/21/2018**.

**All checks should be made payable to Piney Grove Middle School. Please include your child's name and a phone number on all checks or money sent to the school. You may pay the full amount online by credit card at [www.MyPaymentsPlus.com](http://www.MyPaymentsPlus.com). A \$15.00 service fee will apply.**

### IMPORTANT MEETING - Please mark on your calendar now!

Last Minute Details Meeting: All parents and students need to make arrangements to attend this meeting

Boys – Tuesday May 14, 2019 at 7:00pm PGMS Cafeteria Girls – Wednesday May 15, 2019 at 7:00pm PGMS Cafeteria

### STAYING CONNECTED AND IN THE KNOW...

**For Parents** REMIND text messaging – send the message **@savpar19** to **81010** (You'll receive messages throughout the year and during the trip.)

**For Students** REMIND text messaging – send the message **@sav19** to **81010**

This is a wonderful opportunity for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Piney Grove, and we hope your student can join us. If you have any questions, please contact Staci Gibson, trip coordinator, at [sgibson@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:sgibson@forsyth.k12.ga.us) or 678-965-5010 extension 382220.



Piney Grove Middle School

Ready, Set, GO

Back to School Season Has Begun!



Get a jump start on managing your student's account by credit card by going to [www.MyPaymentsPlus.com](http://www.MyPaymentsPlus.com) and registering for a FREE account!

- View optional "student activities" to order PE Uniforms, agendas and pay for academic lockers!
- Enjoy the convenience of registering your student for school-related activities and field trips in the comfort of your home or anywhere you can access the website!

MyPaymentsPlus enables you to make payments on items/events

such as:

- PE Uniforms
- Agendas
- Academic Lockers
- Student Field Trips (i.e. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Savannah Trip)
- Athletic Team Fees
- Donations (i.e. G3 Day 2015 and Holiday Giving) and more!

Please have your student's ID number handy to complete registration! If you do not know your student's ID number, please visit Parent Portal. Once you select your student in Parent Portal, the student ID will appear at the top of the page. If the student number is only 5 digits, add a "0" in front of the ID number.



[www.MyPaymentsPlus.com](http://www.MyPaymentsPlus.com)

# Piney Grove Middle School

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Savannah Adventure

### Frequently Asked Questions



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – Great Information is located here...

Please find listed below some frequently asked questions regarding the PGMS Eighth Grade Savannah Adventure Field Trip. If you have any further questions and/ or concerns, please contact Ms. Gibson at [sgibson@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:sgibson@forsyth.k12.ga.us).

1. **What about the students not going on the trip?**

The students not going on the trip will be required to attend school as this will be considered a regular school day. Students staying behind will follow a different schedule and participate in exciting learning opportunities.

2. **Are parents allowed on the trip?**

No, due to matters regarding security and medical concerns, parents are not allowed on the trip. All staff chaperoning this trip have been fingerprinted and background checks have been performed. Furthermore, all staff has been made aware of medical situations and frequently used medical devices by our school nurse. The eighth grade teachers, other designated faculty members, and one administrator will be chaperoning the Eighth Grade Savannah Adventure Field Trip. The student teacher ratio is 1:16.

3. **How are the bus assignments and room assignments done?**

In March 2018 students will REQUEST who they want to room with. EVERY student attending the trip will fill out a roommate request form with their top 3 choices of who they want to room with. Then we will take those requests and put students into groups of 4. Those four students will share a room at the hotel. Each chaperone will be assigned 4 groups of students, thus making the 1:16 ratio. Girls will be assigned to female chaperones and boys will be assigned to either a male or female chaperone. Students will ride on an assigned bus with their chaperone and the other 15 students assigned to their chaperone. Each bus will hold 3 chaperones and their assigned students. Students will travel with their chaperone and their assigned bus to all events. Buses will be gender specific, either all boys or all girls.

4. **How will I know my child will be safe at the hotel?**

Once we arrive at the hotel, students must report directly to their rooms. They have a few minutes to gather vending or ice. Chaperones will come around to each room, visually make sure that all students are in the room, provide students with a number for how to reach someone in an emergency, and then tell the students to lock the door upon the chaperone's departure. Chaperones will place a piece of tape on the outside of the door between the door and frame to indicate that students are in the room. If the door is opened the tape will rip and security will notify PGMS staff members. All rooms can only be accessed from inside corridors, and there are no balconies. Girls and boys will stay in separate hotels with chaperones on every floor that students are staying on. Beginning at 11pm, hired security will patrol the halls and notify PGMS staff immediately of any problems. They stay on duty until 6am, which is when students are allowed to begin leaving their rooms to get breakfast. Students should never open their door for anyone except a PGMS staff member, and we remind them of this when we get off the bus to go in the hotel as well as when we check them into their rooms.

5. **What if my child is a vegetarian or has special dietary needs because of medical or religious reasons?**

On the application there is a place to indicate this information. Students who have special dietary needs will be accommodated with alternate meals when necessary. Breakfast will be at the hotel and is a deluxe continental with hot and cold items. Some places we visit for lunch and dinner, such as the mall food court, will have options for the students to select. When food is catered to us, vegetarian meals will be provided **as long as the request is indicated in the completed application packet**. If your student has an extremely limited diet, please call Ms. Gibson so we can make arrangements.

6. **Can my child take medications with them on the trip?**

Yes, but only through the school nurse and then their chaperone. One week prior to the departure, all medications (Prescription and Over-the-Counter) and medical devices must be delivered by the parent to our school nurse with medication forms. These forms will be available as we get closer to the trip. All medications must be in original containers and placed in a Ziploc bag with your medical forms. Chaperones will carry ALL medications for students. Students may carry their own inhalers and Epi Pens. **Please update your child's medical plan with Mrs. Femia in the PGMS clinic as soon as possible.**

**7. How do I sign my child up for the trip and make the payments?**

All students who want to attend must complete the application page front and back that is included in this packet. The application includes the *Application Form* and *Behavior Agreement Form*. It must include all the necessary signatures and information. Please read through these forms carefully. Send the completed forms filled out front and back along with payment to Ms. Gibson by 9/21/2018. You can send the full payment of \$415 in September, or follow the payment schedule listed on the first page of this packet. If you choose the payment plan, a deposit of \$150 must be sent with the application to hold your child's spot. When sending in payments, you may send cash, check, or money order. All money orders and checks must be made out to Piney Grove Middle School, and include your child's first and last name and a phone number. Money may be dropped off in the front office in an envelope marked "Ms. Gibson Savannah Trip" or your child may bring it to Ms. Gibson in room 2220 on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade hallway. You can also make credit card payments for the full amount plus a \$15.00 service fee by going to [www.MyPaymentsPlus.com](http://www.MyPaymentsPlus.com).

**8. How much spending money should my child bring on this trip?**

The price of the trip is all-inclusive; therefore, only a limited amount of money is recommended to purchase snacks and/or souvenirs. We suggest \$30-50.00; include some change for vending machines and video games at the arcade.

**9. Can my child bring a cellular phone?**

Students will be allowed to bring cell phones on the trip, but phones must be turned off during the tours that we will be attending. If students use their phones at inappropriate times or for inappropriate uses, they will lose their privilege to have their phone and/or receive a discipline referral.

**10. Can my child bring video games and/or an MP3 player?**

Hand-held games are fine to bring; however, any game, which requires hooking up to the hotel's TV is strictly prohibited. Students may bring a CD player or MP3 player with them. Headphones are required. Please understand that items brought on the trip by your child are solely your child's responsibility.

**11. Will my child be allowed to bring snacks and drinks on the bus?**

Students may bring snacks on the bus. All drinks must be screw-top plastic bottles. Bottled water is highly recommended. Snacks should be healthy choices. Please no glass bottles or cans, no gum, dairy products, or chocolate candy on the bus.

**12. What about dress code?**

The dress code rules that apply in school will also apply on this trip, with the exception of hats. We encourage all students to bring hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change before we leave the hotel each morning.

**13. What are the hotel rooms like?**

Each room will have sleeping arrangements for 4 students. Some rooms will have 2 Queen beds and a sofa bed, other rooms may have only a King size bed and full size pull out bed. Rooms will have one private bathroom, television, telephone, alarm clock and a small refrigerator and microwave. Students will not be able to access movie channels or pay-per-view in their rooms. Any damages that occur in hotel rooms will be the responsibility of students in that room. Hotel names and location will be provided to parents at a later date.

**14. What rules and expectations will there be on the trip?**

Students will be expected to follow the Forsyth County Code of Conduct, all policies and procedures outlined in our PGMS Student/Parent Handbook, and all rules and directions given by PGMS staff members. There will be consequences for students who make inappropriate choices. Consequences can range from loss of privileges at events and tours, change of bus or room, or the parent has to come pick up their child.

**15. What about refunds?**

NO refunds will be given until all trip expenses have been met and a cancellation fee of \$50.00 is applied.

**16. Will there be any additional information given prior to the trip?**

A parent/student meeting is scheduled approximately one week before the trip so that parents and students are aware of the guidelines for this trip. A recommended packing list and specific itinerary will also be provided. All parents AND students must attend this meeting. It is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 7:00pm for the Boys, and Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:00pm for the Girls. Both meetings will take place in the PGMS cafeteria.

# **Piney Grove Middle School**

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Savannah Adventure**

### **Application Form**



To register your student for our trip, send your completed application and behavior agreement along with the full payment of \$415 or deposit of \$150 to Staci Gibson, trip coordinator, by 9/21/2018.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print neatly)

1. **Is your student a vegetarian or does he/she have food allergies and need special meals? If so, please explain: *(Special arrangements will be made to accommodate special dietary needs. If this section is not completed and there are special needs, parent will be expected to accommodate student's needs.) Please be specific with meats, like no beef or pork but chicken is okay. I will be requesting this information again in February, so it is okay to list it 2 times.***
  
2. **Does your child have special medical needs (medication, allergies, etc?) Please use the space below to explain in detail or attach additional information.**

#### **PLEASE READ AND SIGN IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE**

I give permission for my child to participate on the Piney Grove Middle School's Savannah Adventure on May 20-22, 2019. I understand that once I commit to this activity no refunds can be made until after all trip expenses have been met and that a cancellation fee of \$50.00 will be applied. I also understand that my child may not be allowed to participate if his/her behavior is such that it could endanger himself/herself or others. In addition, a student's participation in this learning opportunity may end if his/her behavior distracts significantly from the learning environment of others. I also understand that Piney Grove Middle School and Jim Mulvihill Tours act as agents in this activity and shall not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, delay, or any other irregularities that occur as the fault of service providers (museums, hotels, restaurants, etc.) on this trip.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Turn Over and Complete the BACK SIDE**

# Piney Grove Middle School

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Savannah Adventure

### Behavior Agreement



Dear 8th Grade Student and Parent:

Students traveling on the Piney Grove 8th Grade Savannah Adventure are expected to display a high caliber of well-mannered behavior at all times. Because our 8th grade students are representing Piney Grove Middle School as a whole, and because we are asking Piney Grove faculty and staff to be responsible for students off campus and out of town for three (3) days and two (2) nights, our behavioral expectations are set at a high standard. Thus, any 8th grade student who:

- Commits any two (2) discipline infractions that result in In-School Suspensions/Saturday School between August 7, 2018 and May 17, 2019, will not be allowed to attend the 8th Grade Savannah Adventure on May 20-22, 2019 (on the 2nd ISS assignment/Saturday School the student becomes ineligible for the trip).
- Commits any discipline infraction that results in Out-of-School Suspension between August 7, 2018 and May 17, 2019, will not be allowed to attend the 8th Grade Savannah Adventure on May 20-22, 2019.
- Commits any act that is deemed egregious by the administration will not be allowed to attend the 8th Grade Savannah Adventure on May 20-22, 2019

These infractions are cumulative for the year. For example, a student could receive an In-School Suspension/Saturday School in October and one in April. Once he/she receives the second one in April, he/she is no longer allowed to attend the Savannah trip.

If a student has made payments toward the trip and then loses the privilege of traveling on this trip because of inappropriate behavior, no refunds can be made by Piney Grove Middle School or *Jim Mulvihill Tours* until all trip expenses have been met and a cancellation fee is applied.

Any student who loses his/her privilege to attend the trip may appeal the decision through a student-directed appeal process. A committee of teachers and an administrator will consider all appeals and determine if eligibility should be reinstated.

All students are expected to adhere to the Forsyth County Schools Code of Conduct and all policies and procedures as stated in the Piney Grove Middle School Student/Parent Handbook. Any discipline issue that occurs on the trip will be handled by the administrator(s) chaperoning the trip. Parents could be called and requested to come pick up their child if the issue is considered to create a situation where the administrator feels the child should not continue on the trip.

Please sign and return this form along with your application and first payment. Forms must be submitted and completed in full for a child to attend the Savannah Adventure by **September 21, 2018**.

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I understand the above information and I am willing to follow the behavior guidelines set by the Piney Grove Middle School faculty and administration.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_