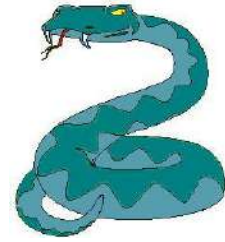


# Vickery Creek Middle School

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

### Frequently Asked Questions



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

Please find listed below some frequently asked questions regarding the VCMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Savannah Trip.

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 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Savannah Trip. The student teacher ratio is 1:15.

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

In March 2013 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 as roommates. 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 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.

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 VCMS staff members. All rooms can only be accessed from inside corridors, and there are no balconies. Girls and boys will stay on spate floors of the hotel with chaperones on every floor that students are staying on. Beginning at 11pm, hired security will patrol the halls and notify VCMS staff immediately of any problems. They stay on duty until 6:30am, which is when students are allowed to begin leaving their rooms to get breakfast. Students should never open their door for anyone except a VCMS 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. Most places we eat for lunch and dinner will have options for the students to choose from, like the food court and buffet restaurants. However, when food is catered to us, vegetarian meals will be provided. If your student has an extremely limited diet, please contact either ms. Burch, school nurse, or Ms. Maldonado, trip coordinator, so we can make arrangements.

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

Yes, all medications (prescription and over-the-counter) and medical devices must be delivered by the parent to our school nurse with medication forms by May 1, 2013. These forms will be available as we get closer to the trip. All medications must be in original containers and placed in a ziplock bag with your medical forms. Chaperones will carry ALL medications for students. Students may carry their own inhalers.

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 this one page application with the behavior contract to your child's homeroom teacher by September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Send the full payment of \$374, or the 1<sup>st</sup> payment to your child's homeroom teacher by October 4<sup>th</sup>.

This 1<sup>st</sup> payment/deposit reserves your child's spot on the trip. When sending in payments you may send cash, check or money order. All money orders and checks must be made out to Vickery Creek Middle School, and include your child's first and last name and a phone number on the memo line.

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-\$40; include some change for vending machines.

9. **What should my child pack in their suitcase?**

This information will be made available at our final parent meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> as well as a student meeting during the school day.

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

Students will be allowed to bring cell phones on the trip. Please discuss cell phone etiquette with your child so he/she will understand the importance of courtesy in regards to turning their phones off during the tours that we will be attending. If students use their phones at inappropriate times, it could result in an office referral with a disposition that may include losing their privilege to have their phone.

11. **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.

12. **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. Energy drinks are prohibited. Snacks should be healthy choices. Chocolate candies are prohibited. Granola bars and cips are preferred.

13. **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.

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

Each room will have sleeping arrangements for 4 students ( 2 queen beds). Rooms will have one bathroom, television, telephone, alarm clock and a small refrigerator. 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.

15. **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 VCMS Student/Parent Agenda, and all rules and directions given by VCMS staff members. There will be consequences for students who make bad 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.

16. **What about refunds?**

NO refunds will be given after November 15, unless another student takes your child's spot.

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

A parent meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. A recommended packing list will also be provided at this meeting. Parents will be reminded of the May 1 due date for the medical/emergency information sheet. This will be first opportunity for students to see bus assignments and conformation of roommates.