



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

E. W. Thurston Middle School

Aim High • Work Hard • Do the Right Thing • Help Someone Else

Allison F. Borchers
Principal

Kyle N. Grady
Assistant Principal

September 2016

Dear 6th Grade Families:

We are very fortunate in Westwood to have Hale Reservation—a wonderful educational and recreational resource—right in our own backyard. For more than a decade, Thurston has joined forces with Hale to offer a variety of education programs and field trips for our students. In the past four years, Thurston students engaged in a variety of academic and team-building activities thanks to an expanded partnership with Hale.

Each Spring our Team Leaders work closely with the Hale staff to design fun, interactive, and educational experiences for our students. This year we organized the program so that all 6th graders are provided with the opportunity to take-on various elements in the ropes course. We also tried to closely match the problem solving aspects of the experience with themes that should resonate to our incoming 6th graders. All students will have the chance to experience academic and team-building activities as well as enjoy learning beyond the walls of the schoolhouse. See the below for more details:

Grade	Date(s)	Theme	Activities Include...
6	9/12 Red	“Building a New Home”	▪ Challenge ropes course elements (team building)
	9/13 Blue		▪ Shipwreck (math, social studies, team building)

Our goal is to make this trip possible for every child and therefore, full or partial financial aid is available. Please contact your child’s guidance counselor to request financial assistance for this or other school-related costs. The cost is **\$50 per child**.

Money contributed by parents helps pay for two items: the services provided by Hale and the cost of busing. What drives the cost of Hale’s programs? For starters, students spend the day in small groups, and each group has a facilitator. The cost of insurance is included in Hale’s program as well. Hale staff have specialized skills and training that allow them to run activities like the ropes course. Most importantly, Hale offers kids a valuable opportunity to engage in learning activities in a totally different environment--something that we strongly believe contributes to their overall growth and development as students and as people.

Please complete the attached **permission slip** and **waiver form** (a standard form, required for all Hale programs) and return both items to your **son or daughters homeroom**, along with a **check**, by **Wednesday September, 7th**.

Checks should be made payable to **Thurston Middle School**.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact me or Genevieve O'Connell,
Director of Education and Adventure at Hale (781-326-1770 ext. 13 or
GOConnell@HaleReservation.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Grady', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kyle Grady
Assistant Principal

THURSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Hale Reservation Field Trip Permission Slip
Return to your child's homeroom by September 7, 2016

If you are the parent of multiple Thurston students, please sign and return both the permission slip and waiver form for each child. If you are sending in one check for your household, please indicate which child is responsible for bringing in the check.

Student Name(s)—Please print first and last	Homeroom Teacher

I give permission for my child/children to attend the Hale Reservation field trip(s).

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Field trip fees \$50

Full or partial financial aid is available. Please check the box below or contact your child's guidance counselor to request financial assistance for this or other school-related costs.

Families who wish to do so may include an additional contribution to help support financial aid for this and other Thurston field trips. If you would like to contribute, please list your name and address so that we can send a letter acknowledging the donation and providing relevant tax information.

- ☐ Cash/check enclosed. Total amount: _____
- ☐ Financial assistant requested.
- ☐ Additional contribution of _____ enclosed. (Please write name and address below, so we can send an acknowledgement.)