

# James A. Garfield Local Schools

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Ted Lysiak, Superintendent

Tracy L. Knauer, Treasurer

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August 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Per the information below, I will start issuing refund checks on Thursday, August 20, 2020. These checks will represent 83% of the balance paid less the \$100 nonrefundable deposit. I am still waiting on additional information on the bankruptcy proceedings and the district attorney is assisting with this issue. I will provide more information as it becomes available. I had a parent request the option to keep funds on deposit with the school district for future trips rather than receiving a refund. If you would like to keep the funds on deposit with the school for a future trip, please send me an email requesting this by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. Please send the email to [tknauer@jagschools.org](mailto:tknauer@jagschools.org). If I do not receive notice via email, I will issue a refund.

Main Street Tours, LLC is a travel agent/tours planning agency who the District contracted with for the 6th grade Washington DC trip. The District collected money from individual parents and from fundraising. The District made the first two initial deposits totaling \$28,000. The trip cost totaled \$51,600, but due to COVID, the final payment was not made to Main Street Tours, LLC while the tour company and District attempted to reschedule the trip. The remaining funds are in the appropriate District bank account.

Main Street Tours, LLC, allegedly due to COVID, is winding up and will be seeking the protection of the United States Bankruptcy Court. The bankruptcy has not yet been filed; according to their attorney, it will probably happen next week. The entity is allegedly no longer paying the principal, and may have close to \$300,000.00 in assets. There are upwards of 15 schools seeking reimbursement for deposits/payments. In our initial contract, the attorney for Main Street Tours, Inc. stated the contract specifies the initial deposit is non-refundable. It is likely that a proof of claim in the bankruptcy will be filed on behalf of the school district and not the individual parents, as the contract is with the school district.

Due to these unfortunate events, the Washington D.C. Trip for the 6th grade class in the 2019/2020 school year has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled. The balance being held by the District will allow for current refunds of 83% of the out of pocket payment less the \$100 nonrefundable deposit. If the district is successful in a claim on the assets of Main Street Tours then additional refunds will be provided.

Please contact me at 330.527.4336 ext. 602 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Tracy Knauer*

Tracy Knauer, Treasurer