



GORDON C. SWIFT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Marylou T. Lertz
Principal

“Here Everyone Acts with Respect and Tolerance” 

Mary Jean Mangione
Assistant Principal

October 4, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am pleased to announce that our eighth grade students have an opportunity to participate in an exciting educational field trip over night to **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** scheduled for **May 7 and May 8, 2020**. The students will depart promptly from Swift the morning of the 7th at 6:00 AM and will return the evening of the 8th at approximately 10:00 PM. During this time we will be scheduled to visit many historical sites including Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Ben Franklin's Print Shop and many more.

Our goal is for our trip to be a safe, educational and enjoyable experience for all. Participation on this trip provides students with opportunities to witness first-hand locations and concepts they have studied in the curriculum, as well as to practice self-discipline, sound decision-making and responsible social behavior. Our school climate reinforces these critical life skills with your child on a daily basis. Students wishing to attend this trip, must demonstrate that they are capable of acting responsibly on this trip by their behavior here at school each and every day. Our school rules reinforce these critical life skills with your child on a daily basis. We have set some parameters for attendance on the trip:

Academic Expectations: As academic achievement is always our number one priority, it is expected that all students wishing to attend the trip will work hard on their studies and complete their work. Therefore:

- Any student who is **failing two or more classes for the year** at the time that the final payment is due will have the privilege of attending the trip revoked.

Behavioral Expectations: It is expected that all students wishing to attend the trip will show respect towards the adults and peers here at school, as well as respect for the rules that have been established to keep our school community safe. Therefore:

- Any student who has been **suspended from school** (in or out) any time this school year, is automatically on a list for review and may have the privilege of attending the trip revoked.
- Any student who has been suspended from school (in or out) any time this school year, and gets an **additional suspension** has the privilege of attending the trip revoked automatically.

Responsibility: It is expected that all students wishing to attend this trip will show respect for the rules and expectations that have been set here at Swift to ensure success. Therefore:

- Students with **excessive tardies or absences** may have the privilege of attending the trip revoked.
- Any student who receives three **after school detentions** from either a teacher or the office, during this school year, may have the privilege of attending the trip revoked.

The cost of this trip is \$400.00 and includes the cost of transportation, the price of all tickets and lunch and dinner. A booking deposit of \$100.00 must be received by November 1, 2019 to hold your child's reservation. We will set up a timeline for paying the remaining funds once we see if we have enough student participation. All payments made by check are payable to Swift Middle School. In the memo of the check, please print your child's full name and homeroom number. Please have your child bring the deposit payment and permission form and any additional payments directly to the main office upon arrival at school. For any check returned for insufficient funds, you will be charged the \$15.00 bank fee and payment must be in cash only.

The administrator reserves the right to add or remove any student from the trip at her discretion. We look forward to another successful trip! ***If you would like your child to attend, please complete the permission slip attached and return it with your payment or deposit by November 1, 2019.***

****Please note the trip is contingent upon 186 students committed to this educational trip. If we do not have at least 186 students committed to participate by November 1st the trip will be cancelled and your \$100.00 deposit will be refunded. No other refunds will be available after November 1st if we have at least 186 students participating.***

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (860) 945-4830.

Sincerely,

Marylu T. Lerz

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Principal

Please note that we have posted a Powerpoint presentation with more details on our web site. Go to <https://sms.watertownps.org>. Go to Menu then click onto Parent Info. The PowerPoint is listed.

We will also upload the permission slip AND send a hard copy home on Monday with the students.

*Swift Middle School
Philadelphia Trip
May 7 and May 8, 2020*

PARENT PERMISSION

I hereby give permission for my child to participate in this field trip and acknowledge that I have read the above with regard to all aspects of the trip including expected responsibilities and behaviors on the part of my child. I understand my child will be responsible for his/her own property including all valuables. (Jewelry is not encouraged.) In addition, while on the trip, if it is deemed necessary, we reserve the right to search your child and/or his or her belongings as a safety precaution. Any student who possesses any banned substances, devices or materials will be sent home at parent expense and is subject to further school sanctions. Teachers may not hold or be held responsible for students' personal property. Any major violations of expected behavior will result in the following:

- Student's parent will be contacted and student will explain the problem.
- Student will be sent home at the parent's expense.

Your child's attendance on the trip indicates that you are in agreement with these rules.

_____ *Date* _____ *Parent/Guardian Signature*

_____ *Please Print Student Name*

STUDENT CONSENT

I acknowledge that I have read the above with regard to all aspects of the trip including expected responsibilities and behaviors. While participating in this field trip experience, I accept responsibility for maintaining good conduct by following all rules and expectations and I will maintain a neat appearance. I agree to follow the directions of all adults and to follow all school rules at all times.

_____ *Date* _____ *Student Signature* _____ *Homeroom*

****Please attach your check to this form and return by November 1, 2019. Thank you!***