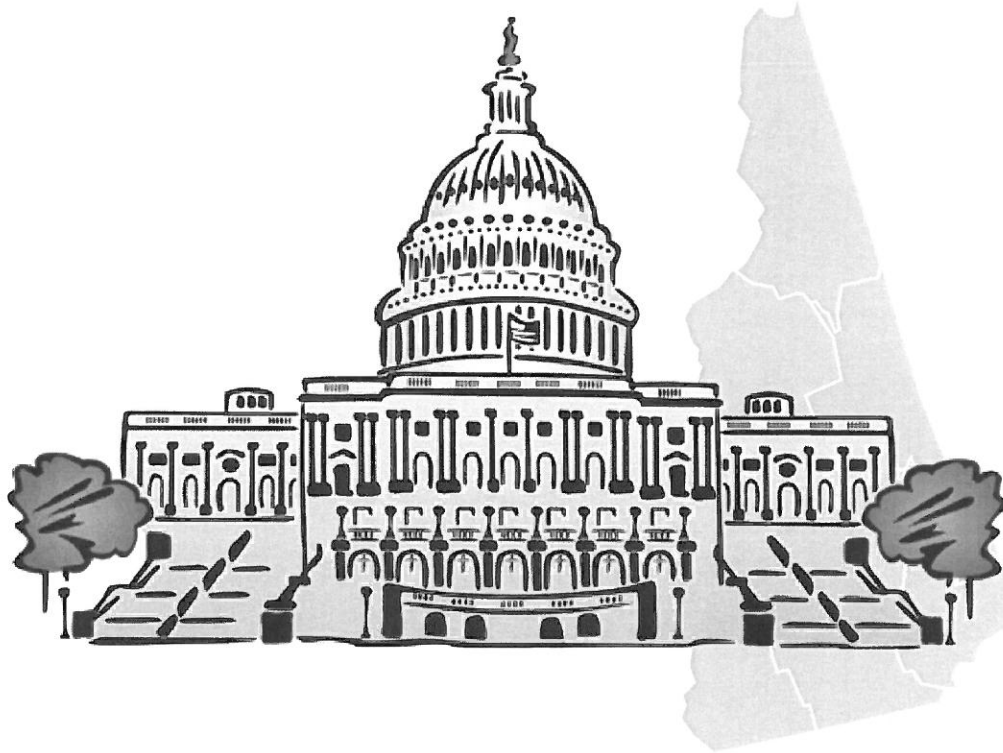


MMS 8th Grade Culminating Experience



May 19-22, 2026

Washington, D.C. Coordinators

Jill Petrillo

jill.petrillo@sau26.org

Jill Smith

jill.smith@sau26.org

DC Travel Coordinator:

Bennett Student Travel, Inc.

dougbennett64@hotmail.com

Local Experience Coordinators

Kelly Trepaney

kelly.trepaney@sau26.org

MERRIMACK MIDDLE SCHOOL
31 MADELINE BENNETT LANE
MERRIMACK, NH 03054
(603) 424-6289 · FAX (603) 423-1109

CHRIGUS I. BOEZEMAN
Principal

KATHLEEN HOPPA
Assistant Principal

September 4, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians of MMS Eighth Graders,

We are delighted that you and your eighth grader will have the opportunity to choose a Culminating Educational Activity, scheduled for May 19th – May 23rd, 2026. Both options fall under our school board policy stipulating that field trips be directly related to the educational program being taught, “designed to advance or further student learning and inquiry and provide opportunities for social growth and development.”

One option is an overnight bus trip to Washington, D.C. where students and chaperones will stay in the D.C. area. This trip will highlight resources in our nation’s capital and surrounding areas. Tentative plans for this experience include visiting the Capitol Building, the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Zoo, the Smithsonian Museums, and other popular educational sites. We will work closely with Bennett Student Travel to develop the safest and highest quality itinerary. We have space for a limited number of parent chaperones to accompany us on the trip. If you are interested, please indicate that on the form that you complete and return to us.


Another option is to stay in this area and participate in a variety of activities. The NH Stay-At-Home experience may include a visit to Odiorne Point, a trip to the movies, a tour of the Freedom Trail in Boston, as well as other educational activities. There will also be social events to match some of the experiences on the D.C. trip.

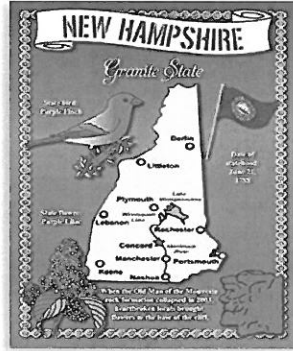
Depending on which option you and your child choose, the expense could range from \$200 to \$978. Bennett Student Travel has worked hard to keep the cost as low as possible, despite increased food and gas prices. There will be a fundraising opportunity to help students with covering the cost. Our PTG and MG Sports will oversee our fundraising efforts in order to bring the costs down for your student.

This experience provides students with an authentic opportunity to demonstrate their readiness for promotion to high school. Safety will remain our highest priority during all experiential activities. To participate, students are expected to consistently demonstrate safe and compliant behavior throughout the school year. In addition to meeting safety expectations, students are encouraged to remain committed to their educational growth by putting forth their best effort each day, striving for continuous improvement, and working toward maintaining passing grades throughout their eighth-grade year. Students who do not meet academic or behavioral expectations may lose the privilege of participating in these trips. As a reminder, the Merrimack School District’s rules and policies apply to all school-sponsored activities, including field trips. While we anticipate positive participation from our students, it is important to note that a significant behavior infraction during a trip may result in the student being transported home at their family’s expense.

We look forward to a tremendous Culminating Educational Activity this spring with your eighth grade student that will last them a lifetime.

Sincerely,


Chrigus Boezeman
Principal



The Local 8th Grade Culminating Experience

Dear Parents/Guardians:

For students not participating in the Washington, D.C. trip, we will be offering a local experience.

This program will consist of the following:

- Freedom Trail, Boston and lunch at Faneuil Hall Marketplace
- Odiorne Point State Park, Rye
- Chunky's, Manchester for lunch and a movie

(Trips are subject to change due to availability and/or price. A comparable trip will be planned if necessary)

Total cost of the trip is \$200.00

Payments can be made in cash or check. Checks should be made out to **Merrimack Middle School** all at once or monthly on the following dates:

10/10 - \$100

11/7 - \$50

12/5 - \$50

Profits from calendar sales can go towards the cost of the trips. If there is financial hardship, please reach out as soon as possible, as there is some scholarship money available to assist those in need. The deadline for participation is December 10, 2025.

We look forward to a memorable week.

Kelly Trepaney Coordinator of 8th Grade local experience

Merrimack Middle School 8th Grade Experience Fundraiser

Michael Garczynski, MG Sports Fundraising

Fundraiser Information:

- Calendar sales run from Thu, 9/4 – Wed, 9/24 for drawings the month of October. Prizes will be mailed via USPS to winners
 - *In the case of an out-of-town donor winning a NH local gift card, the cash equivalent value of the gift card will be mailed to the winner*
- Each calendar sale earns \$13 towards the student's trip
- Calendars can be sold online and in-person

Online Calendar Sales Information:

- Customized links provided on your dashboard to help promote sales via text/email/social media
- Students do not collect money for online sales as all payment transactions are electronic through MGSports

In-person Calendar Sales Information:

- Your packet contains 15 paper calendars; if your student needs additional calendars, they may stop by the main office during school hours
- Cash or check (made payable to Merrimack Middle School) will be collected for each paper calendar sold
- There are 3 checkpoints to turn cash/checks in for paper copies sold. Place cash/check(s) in an envelope to include the student's name & team number on it. Students will turn in any monies collected to the main office on the following dates:
 - **Checkpoint 1: Fri, 9/12**
 - **Checkpoint 2: Fri, 9/19**
 - **Checkpoint 3: Wed, 9/24 (fundraiser ends)**
- Please return any unsold calendars to the main office on Wed, 9/24

Incentive Gear:

- Sell 15 - 29 calendars, receive a free *Merrimack Class of 2030* t-shirt (w/ last name printed on back)
- Sell 30 calendars, receive free *Merrimack Class of 2030* gear in both a t-shirt (w/ printed last name on back) + sweatshirt (w/ embroidered last name on sleeve)

Questions? Need Assistance?

Contact Michael Garczynski @ mgsports1313@gmail.com

Merrimack Middle School
8th Grade Experience Fundraiser
Michael Garczynski, MG Sports Fundraising

MMS On the Move Calendar Raffle – LET’S GET STARTED!

Online Calendar Sales – How to register:

1. Visit: <http://mgsportsfundraising.com>
2. Click the menu button (3 lines on the top righthand side of page)
3. Click “Join Fundraiser”
4. Enter your email address
5. Retrieve the 6-digit code sent to your email and enter it in
6. Create an account with entering your students name and creating a password
7. Enter Team Code: **MGS777499**
8. Click “Join Fundraiser”, then select “Merrimack Middle School” under the Team drop-down menu; Click Join
9. You are now set up to view your personalized fundraising account which includes: (1) a fundraiser URL, (2) a tracking URL, and (3) a personal dashboard to monitor your personal fundraising progress

Online Calendar Sales – How to Promote:

From your dashboard, share your personalized link with family & friends via text, email, and social media. Both text and email links create an automatic message, but you can choose to add a personalized message if you would like.

In-person Calendar Sales – How to Promote:

Example: Hello, my name is ____ with Merrimack Middle School. I am selling calendars for my 8th grade class trip to _____. Your \$20 donation gives you a chance at winning cash/gift cards and helps raise money for my trip! Would you be interested in participating?

Questions? Need Assistance?

Contact Michael Garczynski @ mgsports1313@gmail.com

Bennett Student Travel, Inc.

Post Office Box 2205
Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420
978-342-1579 - Fax

978-342-7188 - Phone

email: dougbennett64@hotmail.com

Merrimack Middle School 8th Grade Washington, DC Trip

May 19-22, 2026

Full Package Includes:

- * **Bus Transportation throughout the trip**
- * **3 Nights Hotel Accommodations**
- * **All Touring throughout Washington, DC**
- * **3 Breakfasts/4 Lunches/3 Dinners**
- * **Group photo at the US Capitol Building in Washington**
- * **All Travel Arrangements and Services**
- * **All Taxes and Gratuities**

**Price: \$978.00 per student/quad occupancy
 \$1095.00 per parent/double occupancy**

The student trip is payable in 6 monthly payments of \$163.00 each

Note - The final price is subject to change until everything is booked and under deposit. In the unlikely event that a price increase becomes necessary, it will be announced in December 2025.

Payment Schedule

You can pay the full amount of \$978.00 by October 10, 2025, or follow the payment plan.

Payment #1	\$163.00 per person	Due by October 10, 2025
Payment #2	\$163.00 per person	Due by November 7, 2025
Payment #3	\$163.00 per person	Due by December 5, 2025
Payment #4	\$163.00 per person	Due by January 9, 2026
Payment #5	\$163.00 per person	Due by February 13, 2026
Payment #6	\$163.00 per person	Due by March 13, 2026

Make all checks payable to "Bennett Student Travel, Inc."

Please be sure to write the student's name in the memo section of all checks.

All payments should be turned in to Mrs. Smith in Room 113 - Team 7-1

Any late payments will be assessed a penalty of \$25.00

The fee for all returned checks is \$25.00

Cancellation Penalties

If an individual needs to cancel, the following penalty will apply based on the date that the cancellation is received in writing at our office.

Now	to	Oct 20, 2025	-	No Penalty
Oct 21, 2025	to	Nov 30, 2025	-	\$150.00 Penalty Per Person
Dec 1, 2025	to	Dec 31, 2025	-	\$275.00 Penalty Per Person
Jan 1, 2026	to	Jan 31, 2026	-	\$450.00 Penalty Per Person
Feb 1, 2026	to	Feb 28, 2026	-	\$620.00 Penalty Per Person
Mar 1, 2026	to	Mar 31, 2026	-	\$750.00 Penalty Per Person
Apr 1, 2026	to	May 19, 2026	-	Full Amount Paid Penalty

Cancellation Insurance

Optional cancellation insurance is available to individual students at an additional cost. This would allow for a full refund of the amount paid for the trip if the individual needed to cancel due to a covered physical illness or injury. Please note that this insurance will not cover a cancellation which is related to a pandemic or an epidemic. Further details about this insurance are available upon request.

Merrimack Middle School

2026 Washington, DC Trip - Tentative Schedule

Tuesday May 19, 2026

6:00 am	Load the buses in Merrimack
6:30 am	The buses will depart from Merrimack for Washington, DC Lunch stop on the way to Washington, DC - \$20 cash provided
5:00 pm	Dinner at the Pentagon City Mall food court - \$20 cash provided
6:30 pm	The buses will bring the group to the White House for photos
8:00 pm	The buses will arrive at the two Embassy Suites hotels: Georgetown, in DC Springfield, Virginia

Wednesday May 20, 2026

7:00 am	Buffet breakfast at the hotels - Included
9:00 am	Guided tour of Arlington National Cemetery
11:00 am	Visit to the Iwo Jima Memorial
12:00 pm	Lunch at the Natural History Museum Cafeteria - \$20 cash provided
1:00 pm	Time to visit the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History
3:30 pm	Time to visit the Smithsonian Museum of American History
5:45 pm	Dinner at the Pentagon City Mall food court - \$15 cash provided
7:15 pm	Illuminated Night Tour of Washington DC The Lincoln Memorial The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial The Korean War Memorial The World War II Memorial
9:30 pm	The group will depart Washington DC for the hotels

Thursday May 21, 2026

7:00 am	Buffet breakfast at the hotels - Included
8:45 am	Visit to the 911 Memorial at the US Pentagon
10:00 am	Visit the Memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt
11:00 am	Panoramic Group Photo on the west side of the US Capitol Building
11:45 am	Lunch at the US Capitol Visitor's Center Cafeteria - \$20 cash provided
1:20 pm	Guided tour of the US Capitol Building
3:00 pm	Visit the US Botanical Gardens
4:15 pm	Admission into the National Archives Building
5:30 pm	Visit to the Jefferson Memorial
7:00 pm	Visit to Dave & Busters in Springfield, Virginia
7:15 pm	Buffet dinner at Dave & Buster's - Included Time to enjoy Dave & Buster's with an Unlimited Play Card
9:30 pm	The buses will depart Dave & Buster's for the hotels

Friday May 22, 2026

7:30 am	Buffet breakfast at the hotels - Included
9:15 am	Visit to the National Zoo
11:30 am	The buses will depart from Washington, DC for Merrimack Lunch stop on the way home to Merrimack - \$20 cash provided Dinner stop on the way home to Merrimack - \$20 cash provided
11:30 pm	Approx. arrival into Merrimack

WILL YOUR STUDENT NEED MEDICATIONS OF ANY KIND WHILE IN WASHINGTON, DC??

MEDS/ORDERS ARE DUE BY MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026

All over-the-counter medications must have a **"Parent Permission to Administer Medications Form"** filled out and signed. All over-the-counter medications must be delivered to the school nurse in original containers. For any prescription medications, both the **"Parental Permission to Administer Medications Form"** and the **"Prescription Authorization Form"** must be completed and turned into the nurse with the medication in the original prescription bottle/container. The prescribing physician must fill out and sign the top portion of the **"Prescription Authorization Form"**. **Please note: a copy of the label on your prescription bottle will not be an appropriate substitute for this form.** Students will **NOT** be allowed to carry **ANY** medications with them with the exception of Insulin and administration supplies, Epi-Pens and inhalers. All three of these medications require the student's physician to complete the top and middle section of the **"Prescription Authorization Form"** and a parent/guardian must sign the bottom portion of this form authorizing the student to hand-carry and self-administer these medications. All other medications may **NOT** be held by the students and must be given to staff for administration. Please contact the nurse directly if your student has a medication you feel he/she must be allowed to carry on his/her person.

Ibuprofen (Advil) 200mg tablets and Acetaminophen (Tylenol) 500mg tablets will be supplied in bulk by MMS and brought by chaperones on the trip. Each bus will have a separate supply so that it will be available at all times to the students. PLEASE NOTE: Although you do not have to supply either Tylenol or Advil for your student, you still must sign the forms necessary for the administration of either of these medications. Both forms can be found on the **MMS School Website, Nurse's Page and then under Filing Cabinet**. If you are simply sending in a permission form for these two medications WITHOUT any medications, you may send this in to school with your student. **Permission for staff to administer Tylenol and/or Advil is also part of the intake form you will be sending back to school...simply initial where it asks for consent! If you initial here, it is only good for the DC trip.** If you wish to have permission on file for the whole year including the DC trip, use the form on my website! Once completed, Instruct your student to deliver it directly to the Nurse.

The dosing directions for this medication will be:

Ibuprofen 200mg tablets; give 1-2 tablets every 8 hours as needed for pain/fever

Acetaminophen 500mg tabs; give 1-2 tabs every 6 hours as needed for pain/fever *CAN NOT exceed 6 tablets in a 24 hour period.

****Also...**If your student has any particular medical situation that you believe will need extra planning for, please reach out to the Nurse by March! We will need time to set up any accommodations requested!

If your son or daughter has a supply of medication that they take while in school, (that is not regular tablets of Advil/Extra Strength Tylenol) that will be sent with them on this trip. You do not need to fill out additional paperwork, BUT YOU MUST MAKE SURE THEY HAVE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY!! If they have other forms of Advil (ibuprofen) or Tylenol (acetaminophen) such as liquid or chewable, and they have adequate supply at school, this will be sent with them. If you have any questions about this, please reach out to the Nurse.

****All forms and medications are due to the Nurse's office by no later than MONDAY MAY 4, 2026!!! Please make the necessary plans to have all your paperwork and medications in by the due date. Medications and forms brought in late cause significant issues in the processing of everyone's medications for this trip, so mark your calendars TODAY!**

Washington, D.C. Timeline

September



Calendar Sales 9/4-9/24 (drawings in October)

Checkpoint 1: 9/12

Checkpoint 2: 9/19

Checkpoint 3: 9/24

October



Register and decide by October 10, 2025



Turn in Emergency Form, Behavioral Expectations Form, and Registration Form from the packet



First Payment is Due October 10, 2025

November



Payment 2: 11/7

December



Payment 3: 12/5

January



Payment 4: 1/9

February



Payment 5: 2/13

March



Payment 6: 3/13



Reach out to the nurse by March if you have medical needs that may require more accommodations



Roommate selections (you will get a form then)

April



Meeting 4/6 6:00 p.m.

May



Meds/Orders due to the nurse by May 4, 2026



Trip May 19th-22nd

8th Grade Culminating Experience Registration 2026

Please complete and sign this form, and return by Friday, October 10, 2025.

Select one Option:

☐ NH Option: My child will be attending the Stay-at-Home Culminating experience. Payments are due 10/10/25, 11/08/25, 12/10/25.

☐ Washington, D.C. Option: My child will travel to Washington, D.C. Payments are due 10/10/25, 11/07/25, 12/5/25, 1/9/26, 2/13/26, 3/13/26.

Student Name _____ Team _____

Parent Signature _____

For the D.C. Option:

Please read and Initial.

_____ I have noted the payment plan due dates for the D.C. option (\$163 each.) Full payments are also acceptable

_____ I am aware that optional cancellation insurance is available that would guarantee a full refund should the student listed above need to cancel his/her trip **due to a covered medical reason**. I fully understand that it is my responsibility to initiate the purchase of this optional insurance from *Bennett Student Travel, Inc.*

_____ I have read and understand the *Bennett Student Travel, Inc.* policies for cancellation and fees for late and returned checks.

_____ I have received the payment schedule and cancellation penalty schedule for this trip.

_____ I agree that I will not hold *Bennett Student Travel, Inc.* responsible for any financial losses should the Merrimack School District and /or its administrators decide to delay, reschedule, or cancel this trip.

_____ I understand that, if my child is not in a room with three other students by March 2026, the Trip Coordinator will move students so that there are four students in each room.

_____ I understand that my child must demonstrate safe and responsible behavior at school all year in order to qualify for the trip, and that any unsafe behavior during the trip may result in my student being sent home at my own expense.

_____ I am aware that there is a final mandatory meeting for the D.C. option on **Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM.**

_____ If calendar fundraisers were sold, calculations will be made and reported at the time the last payment is due and rooms are organized. Refunds will be given if the trip was paid for and there are calendar sale profits owed.

8th Grade Culminating Educational Experience Behavioral Expectations 2025-2026

The 8th Grade Culminating Experience refers to either the Washington D.C. trip or the Stay-at-Home program. Both experiences give students the opportunity to see and explore locations pertinent to the 8th grade curriculum. The goal is for students to experience enriching educational opportunities while staying safe and having fun.

Safety and academic commitment are the top priorities during all experiential learning activities. To qualify for these trips, students must consistently demonstrate responsible safety behavior and strong academic engagement throughout the school year. Students who do not meet these expectations at school may lose the privilege of participating in these activities in the spring.

It is important that parents/guardians, staff, and students have the same understanding of behavioral and academic expectations for both activities. All general school rules apply to both experiences as they are school-sponsored events. Due to the nature of these experiences, it is important to highlight that all students are expected to follow the requests and directives of the chaperones, stay with their group, be at the buses or meeting points at the prearranged time, and not go anywhere without permission from their chaperone.

We must always consider how our actions reflect ourselves, our families, and our community. While traveling with Merrimack Middle School, each student is responsible for maintaining safe, responsible, professional, and appropriate behavior. Students who exhibit behavior that does not meet this standard may be asked to stay at or return to MMS at their family's expense.

Please review and discuss these rules with your child and then sign the agreement below. This indicates your understanding and agreement with the behavioral expectations for either of the 8th grade Culminating Educational Experiences.

Please sign and return this section to your homeroom teacher by October 10, 2025.

☐ Washington D.C. Trip

☐ NH Stay-at-Home Program

My 8th grade student and I have read the behavioral and academic expectations for the 8th Grade Culminating Educational Experience. We understand these expectations and the consequences for students who do not comply with them.

Student Signature

Team

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Merrimack Middle School

2025-2026 Emergency Form for Eighth Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.

Last Name _____ First Name _____
DOB _____ Home Phone _____
Parent/Guardian _____ Work Phone _____
Street Address _____ Cell Phone _____

OTHER THAN ABOVE, IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PLEASE NOTIFY:

Personal Contact #1 _____ Relationship _____
Address _____ Home Phone _____
City/Town _____ State _____ Work Phone _____
Cell Phone _____
Personal Contact #2 _____ Relationship _____
Address _____ Home Phone _____
City/Town _____ State _____ Work Phone _____
Cell Phone _____
Family Physician _____ Office Phone _____
Street Address _____ City/Town _____

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Insurance Plan _____
Group No. _____ Subscriber No. _____

HEALTH HISTORY

(Use back of form if necessary)

Cardiac or Other Medical Condition: _____
Seizure Disorder: _____
Diabetes: _____
Asthma: _____ Uses Inhaler? _____
Carries inhaler and administers own dosage (Needs note on file with nurse) _____

ALLERGIES

Bee sting _____ Medication(s) _____ Food _____ Seasonal/Environmental _____
Type of reaction/severity _____ Treatment? _____
Other (explain) _____

Authorization for student to be given Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen if needed on the trip:

_____ Ibuprofen/Advil _____ Acetaminophen/Tylenol *Please initial for authorization to administer*

Dosing: Ibuprofen/Advil 200 mg tablets; take 1-2 tabs every 6-8 hours as needed for pain/fever

Acetaminophen/Tylenol 500 mg tablets; take 1-2 tabs every 6 hours as needed for pain/fever

Generic tablets provided. If another form of medication is needed, you must provide to nurse

IN CASE OF MEDICAL EMERGENCY: I hereby grant permission to transport the above-named student to an emergency facility or hospital. I also grant permission to any licensed physician to hospitalize and secure proper treatment for the above-named student.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ DATE _____