

What parents had to say after our 2016 trip:

"Hi, I want to thank you for organizing the trip for the kids. Our son had a great time. We have been talking about it daily since his return. I think you did an excellent job organizing and presenting the information about the trip to the parents. It was probably the most organized communication I have received to date from the school district. Thank you for that. Honestly, from a parent's perspective, it is not easy to send your child across the country without us by his side. Now knowing what a great experience it is for the kids, and how well planned the trip is, I am hoping it will be that much easier for us when our next two children are ready to go. Thank you for doing this!"

"Thank you for coordinating such a great trip. Our daughter had a super time."

"I just wanted to take a minute to thank all of you for the time you took away from your families to take the 8th graders to Washington DC. The trip was so well organized and after hearing all about it, well worth the money. I felt safe sending both of my kids on this trip and they had a great time, learned a lot and came home with great memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you again for all you do!"

"I wanted to extend my sincere thank you to everyone involved in making the 2016 DC trip such a success. Our son had a wonderful time. I can only imagine the behind the scenes work that goes into this trip and I'm so grateful that the school offers such a terrific program. I was very nervous sending our son.....letting him out of the protective bubble I keep him in... but it was an experience that he will remember forever along with the responsibility he learned while being out there and so far from home. He was very excited to show me all the pictures he took and to tell me all about his trip. His brother and I were very happy to have him home. Thanks again for a job well done!!

“Our son is in 8th grade at GDS and he recently participated in the Washington DC trip. I just wanted to pass onto you my appreciation for the teachers at GDS that set up this trip and who chaperone. I can only imagine the amount of time and work that Mr. Thompson puts into this trip. He is always enthusiastic about it and has an answer to every one of our questions. Although, he has never had him as a teacher, I can tell that he is an outstanding teacher and the way he runs this trip proves that.

We would also like to thank Ms. Olson and Mr. Fredrick (who were the teachers assigned to his group) for taking such great care of our kids. When you send your child off like that (without you), it is sometimes very unnerving even though they are 13. So you have to put your trust and faith in the teachers. We did so, and never once felt that we needed to worry as we knew he was in good hands.

Also, our son is a pretty low key kid and doesn't typically show a lot of excitement. But when he got home, we asked him on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being great and 1 being awful, how he would rate his trip, and before I could even finish my sentence he immediately stated 5!!! He said it was one of the best things that he had ever done (and he originally was not sure if he even wanted to go). I truly feel that the reason he had such a great time is due to the hard work and effort put forth by the GDS teachers that run this and participate. We appreciate all they did and for taking from their personal lives to do so. I felt it was important for you to know how we felt about them and how this trip was handled and executed.”

“We wanted to thank you for planning such a wonderful trip for the eighth-graders. My daughter had a fantastic time, and was able to tell us what she learned as well. In fact, she stated that it was harder to come after this trip than when we went to Disney World. We really appreciate the effort that you put in to make this trip fun, stress-free for the parents, and safe.”

“I want to thank you all for allowing me to join you on the trip and what you provide for the students. The parents can't begin to appreciate all you do! I was amazed on how flawless the trip went and the amount of information the students were exposed to in such a short period of time. Commanding, respect, appreciation, responsibility, maturity, on a daily basis, and doing it all with a smile on your faces shows the passion you have to provide these kids with a great experience. For many it is the first time away from the parents and you have given them the life skills to grow with. I believe the trip to DC is the crown jewel of the 8th grade school year and these kids will remember it the rest of their lives. Thanks for everything you do to make the MG School District what it is today!”