**This Is a Decision Paper**

**To: Members of the Hardin County Board of Education**

**From: Michael Elmore, Principal and Carmen Johnson, Behavioral Specialist**

**Date: November 1, 2011**

**RE: Request approval for Bluegrass Middle School eight grade students and sponsors to participate in an educational experience to New York City**

**Objective: The purpose of this trip to New York City is to expand and enrich upon the current district curriculum for 8th grade students at Bluegrass Middle School**

In accordance with policy 09.36, I request approval for eighth grade students and their sponsors to take a school related trip to New York City. This trip is tentatively planned for March 22-25, 2012. For every ten paying students there will be one chaperone, and their trip will be at no cost to the chaperone. Students and chaperones will leave via commercial busses at 10:00 pm on Wednesday night. We will arrive back at school at approximately 7:30 am on Sunday morning. Stops will include the following: The United Nations, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, 9/11 WTC Memorial, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, Time Square, The Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, Carnegie Hall, Wall Street, A Broadway Show, and a monologue writing workshop taught by professional actors.

This trip directly supports four classes currently offered in our curriculum. 100% of our 8th grade students will have at least one, if not many of these classes during their 8th grade year.

1. **8th Grade Language Arts /Extensions** – Students study the genre of Drama as part of their curriculum.
2. **8th Grade Art-** Students in art class learn the basic concepts, skills, and techniques involved in the production of art. They also study art history. Students who attend this trip will be able to view works of art and techniques previously studied in class.
3. **8th Grade Social Studies- Students** will be able to learn about diversity, tolerance, and inclusion through the immigration experience at the Ellis Island. they will also practice being peace makers as they engage in peaceful dialogue at the United Nations
4. **8th grade Math/ Methods –**Students will be able to learn how to use basic story problems to navigate around New York City, and how architects incorporate math into the design of this city

In addition to curricular ties, the New York City trip will allow our students to become educated travelers and to fully engage with the city through authentic experience. The objective is for Bluegrass students to encounter the city as thinking citizens of the world. We have developed materials that ask the students to compare the community of Elizabethtown, Kentucky with New York City, through interviews and reflection questions. The students are asked to think about larger themes of the human condition, and are encouraged to participate in the “great conversation.”

*For many students, this trip will be a series of remarkable first experiences: The first time to travel out of state, the first time to be responsible for money management, the first time to visit New York City, the first time interacting with actual New Yorkers through a series of interview questions., The first time seeing a Broadway show, the first time visiting Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, The Empire State Building, Central Park and Rockefeller Center, And the first time engaging in peaceful dialogue in the General Assembly at the United Nations. The cost of this trip which includes transportation, exhibit and entry fees, all meals, accommodations taxes and tips, is $619.00 per person. The only money students need to take with them on this trip is for souvenirs and snacks if they choose.* This trip allows students the opportunity to put into practice the life skills that have been taught in our classrooms. This trip will be a culminating activity to connect standard instruction embedded throughout the past school year.

R.L/ 08: 8.3, 8.6, 8.7, 8.1,

SS/08: 5.1.2, 1.3.2, 2.1.1, 4.3.1

S.L./08: 8.2,8.5,

PL/08: 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.6, 1.1.9, 3/1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 4.1.3, 4.2.2

R.L/08: 8.1, 8.3, 8.6, 8.7,

AH/08: SA-DT1, SA-DT2, SA-DT3, SA-DT3, SA-43

MA 1.2.1, 1.3.1

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that the Hardin county Board of Education approve the Bluegrass Middle School Eight Grade trip

**Recommended Motion:**

I move that the Hardin County Board of Education approve The Bluegrass Middle School Eighth Grade Trip

**2011-2012**

**Instructional Minutes on 8th Grade Trip**

**Thursday March 22, 2012**

**9- 10 hours Educational Preparation activities led by content area teachers**

**Friday March 23, 2012**

United Nations (2Hours)

Metropolitan Museum of Art (2 Hours)

Central Park (2Hours)

Top of the Rock Observatory (2 Hours)

Traveler’s notebook journal reflection (1 hour)

**Saturday March 24, 2012**

Museum of Natural History (2 Hours)

Historic Architecture Tour (2 Hours)

Interview questions with New Yorkers (2Hours)

Broadway show (3 Hours)

Traveler’s notebook journal reflection (1 hour)

**Sunday March 25, 2012**

Ellis Island (3 Hours)

Ground Zero 3(Hours)

Interview questions with New Yorkers (2 hours)

**Monday March 26, 1012**

Traveler’s notebook journal reflection (1 hour)

Educational follow up led by content area teachers (9-10 hours)

Total number of Instructional Minutes 2011-50- 55 hours (2011-2400) minutes