**This is a decision paper.**

TO: Nannette Johnston

FROM: Jon Thomas

DATE: September 18, 2012

RE: Request for approval for West Hardin Middle School eighth grade students and sponsors to taken an educational trip to Washington, D.C. via commercial carrier service.

In accordance with policy 09.36, I request approval for West Hardin eighth grade students and sponsors to take a school related trip to our nation’s capitol, Washington D.C. through Worldstrides. This trip is scheduled for March 21st- 25th, 2013. There will be approximately 50 students and 6 adults attending the trip, three teachers and three parents. Students and chaperones will leave on a private motor coach bus at 7:30 p.m. on a Thursday evening. We will arrive back at school at approximately 6:00 a.m. Monday morning. Stops will include the following: The White House, The National Capitol, Supreme Court Building, all memorials and monuments, Arlington National Cemetery, Pentagon, 9/11 memorial, National Archives, National Zoo, Smithsonian Institute, Ford’s Theatre, and Holocaust Museum. This tremendous educational opportunity is one that the eighth grade students at West Hardin are looking forward to taking.

For many students, the trip will be a series of remarkable first time experiences, the first time to travel out of the state, the first time to be responsible for money management, the first time to visit our nation’s capitol, the first time to see primary source documents, to see our nation’s memorials and landmarks, to see the government in action and to visit and see historical artifacts. Worldstrides provides knowledgeable tour guides that interact with the students about the attractions. We have broken the cost of this trip into flexible payments. The cost of the trip, which includes transportation, cost into venues, all meals, hotel stay, taxes and tips, is $499 for both the students and parents. The only money students need to take with them on this trip is for souvenirs and snacks, if they choose. The trip for teachers is free as a promotion from Worldstrides. Students were presented with the trip information in May of 2012 and every 8th grader was encouraged to attend and sign-up for the easy payment plan through Worldstrides. Payment must be made complete by January 2013.

This trip allows students this opportunity to put into practice the life skills that have been taught in our classrooms. This trip will be a culminating activity to content standard instruction embedded throughout the past school year. This is just a sampling of the identified content standards that will be included during the trip:

SS/08- 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.1, 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 4.1.2, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.2.4

SC/08-3.5.1

AH/08-1.4.2, 2.1.1, 2.4.1, 1.3.1, 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.4.1

MA/08- 1.2.1, 1.3.1

RD/08-1.0.7, 2.0.4, 2.0.7, 2.0.8, 3.0.2, 3.0.4, 3.0.7, 3.0.8, 3.0.9, 4.0.1

**RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend that you allow and approve West Hardin Middle School eighth grade trip to Washington D.C.

**2013 Instructional Minutes on 8th grade trip**

**Thursday, March 21st –** Travel day

**Friday, March 22nd**

Arlington National Cemetery- 2 hours

Iwo Jima Memorial- 1 hour

Pentagon Memorial- 1 hour

U.S. Air Force Memorial- 1 hour

FDR Memorial- 1 hour

MLK Memorial- 1 hour

WWII Memorial- 1 hour

Jefferson Memorial- 1 hour

**Saturday, March 23rd**

Capitol, Supreme Court, Library of Congress – 3 hours

National Archives- 1 hour

Embassy Row- 1 hour

National Zoo- 2 hours

Holocaust Museum- 1 hour

Vietnam Veterans Memorial- 1 hour

Lincoln Museum- 1 hour

Kennedy Center- 1 hour

**Sunday, March 24th**

White House- 1 hour

Washington Monument- 1 hour

Smithsonian Institute- 5 hours

Return home

**Total number of Instructional Minutes**- 27 hours equals 1620 minutes

**Total number of Instructional Minutes of 2 Regular School Days-** 14 hours equals 840 minutes