May 7, 2025

##### Dear Parents/Guardians of 8th Grade Students,

The annual middle school ‘culminating experience’ is fast approaching. We will spend two action-packed days in Seattle & on Vashon Island.

Dates: **Tuesday, June 10th – Wednesday, June 11th**

Accommodations: **Camp Sealth on Vashon Island**

Requested fee: **$120 to cover activities, food, lodging, and transportation**

**If you are interested in being a chaperone**, please contact Ms. Claire at [clairekennedy@sjisd.org](mailto:clairekennedy@sjisd.org)

As an extension of our yearlong 8th grade curriculum, activities will include:

* A visit to: Green Lake, the Burke Museum, and Pike Place.
* A tour of the University of Washington campus and the Ballard Locks
* An overnight stay on Vashon Island at Camp Sealth

We urge all 8th graders to go. Students who do not go will have two full days of schoolwork in all subjects. The fact is that **the trip is school** for these two days*.* Of course, there may be some students who cannot go for health, disciplinary or academic reasons, but we hope to have everyone.

Permission slips and packing lists will be sent home later. I am writing to you now to allow you to budget for this trip. Please begin submitting payment to Katie in the front office as soon as you can (make checks payable to FHMS). The requested fee of $120 per student will only cover part of the costs; the real cost is closer to $170 per person. Our wonderful PTO has fundraisers year-round to help supplement field trips, and we will use some building funds. If your family is able to pay more, this will not only help with the total costs of the trip but will also help some of those who may not be able to pay the full fee. If you cannot afford $120, we ask that you pay as much as you can afford.

**We are giving you this information early to aid with budgeting – for example, a check for $60 in May and $60 in June can be made out to FHMS to cover the cost of the trip.** As always, we really want everyone to go. If you are in financial need, please contact Ms. Claire.

Thank you,

Rod Turnbull