

Dear 7th Grade Families,

We are delighted to share with you information about our annual 7th grade trip. Each year, we design our trip around opportunities we find at various destinations, including educational experiences, cultural experiences, and experiences that are just for fun. This year, we considered destinations all over the Southeast that align with our educational goals while remaining accessible and cost effective for our families, and we found the best opportunities in New Orleans! We will depart for New Orleans early in the morning on October 28 and return the evening of October 29, 2026.

Experiences we will enjoy include the following:

- The Lion King at the Saenger Theater - This fabulous Broadway production is a fun and exciting experience that is ideal for middle schoolers. In addition to the educational component in the production related to food chains and the balance of ecosystems, this show powerfully illustrates essential life lessons we cultivate in 7th graders, including the importance of learning to be a leader (one of our school's core values), taking responsibility for your actions, and gaining self-acceptance by learning from life experiences rather than running from them.
- Café du Monde – We will kick off our trip at Café du Monde, a New Orleans tradition.
- World War II Museum – The study of World War II is always a highlight in 7th grade social studies. Visiting the World War II Museum will bring the curriculum to life through firsthand engagement with primary sources and exhibits.
- Insectarium/Aquarium – This will complement our life science curriculum with interactive learning opportunities – and the possibility of eating bugs!
- Riverboat Cruise – We will cruise down the Mississippi River to the Chalmette Battlefield where Jean Lafitte and his buccaneers joined forces with Andrew Jackson to defend the city against the British in the Battle of New Orleans. A park ranger will guide us through the battlefield to explain the historical relevance of the battle.
- Swamp Tour – This immersive natural history experience turns a live wetland into an open-air classroom. Students will discover how thick marshes and swamps absorb storm surge and reduce erosion and why protecting coastal areas matters for local communities.

The cost will be approximately \$480 (cost is dependent on the number of students that travel with us). It will be billed to you on October 1 through Episcopal.

We are super excited about this trip and hope that you are too! Traveling to New Orleans with your 90+ friends and teachers that are experts in their subject areas is a completely

different experience than going with your family, and we cannot wait to share this with your children. If you are not interested in having your child travel with us, please email me no later than September 9 at 3:15.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Julie Weaver

Victoria Escher

Tommy Rhea

Scott Stephenson