

The Nokesville School

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Nokesville Families,

This communication is intended to share an update regarding free field trips for students as well as general reminders for parents and guardians about field trips.

Prince William County Schools is committed to ensuring that all students have the same opportunity for engaging, learning experiences such as field trips. We are in the process of providing this across the division in the coming years. Last year, we phased this in at TNS with reduced costs for field trips. We are excited to share that this year, we will be covering the costs for all students for school-sponsored field trips that occur during the school day. This includes costs for travel and entrance fees.

The process for arranging field trips is that teachers in the grade level discuss, plan, and request field trips, making sure they align to their instruction and state standards. Once they are approved by the principal and level associate superintendent, buses are then arranged, and payments are made with the various companies and locations. Chaperones will continue to pay for their fees for field trips, except fees when using PWCS school buses for transportation.

Parents and guardians will receive advanced notice of the trip and must give permission in writing for their child to attend. This year, we have created a standardized TNS field trip form that should look the same for every grade level and trip this year.

Plans are made to provide proper supervision by school employees and assigned parent chaperones on all school-sponsored trips. This also includes provisions to protect the health, welfare, and safety of our students. Please follow the directions given by your child's teacher when planning and attending field trips.

All students must travel to and from the field trip location with the group of students and teachers. Parents are not allowed to sign-out their child from the field trip location. Parents can only attend the field trip if they are assigned as a chaperone by their child's teacher. Chaperones are typically chosen using a lottery system by the teachers. Parents may not show up at the field trip location to be involved with the group if they are not assigned as a chaperone. This is primarily due to ensuring a clear line of supervision and increased safety for students. Also, consider that field trips are meant to be a unique peer-to-peer collaborative experience, which is special and different from a typical family trip.

There are requirements for adult to student supervision ratio when coordinating teachers and chaperones during non-PWCS locations. At the elementary level, we will have at least one adult for every five students. At the middle level, we will have at least one adult for every 10 students.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding field trips, please reach out to me via phone at (571) 781-3040 or by email at jacksam@pwcs.edu. Thank you support for our students and staff at TNS. We are better when we work together to provide these special memories for our students!

Sincerely,

Andrew M. Jacks, Ed.D.
Principal

References:

- PWCS Policy 642
- PWCS Regulation 642-1