

July 2008

Dear Middle School Students and Parents,

We are excited to start the year off with a trip to Portola State Park. All three grades will be traveling together to the Park leaving MMS on **Tuesday, September 2, 2008**. The 8th grade will be doing a backpacking for two days and one overnight.

Middle school students who normally ride the bus will do so with all of their baggage to school Tuesday morning. We will have a short orientation in the Assembly Room and will then meet at the bus turn-around at 10:30. **Please pack your things small and tight for easy transport. Pack a lunch for Tuesday only.** Please review the Clothing and Equipment list carefully, note that 8th graders will need a backpack with a frame. They should wear it around for a few hours at home to make any adjustments so it is comfortable. Please review the Clothing and Equipment list.

We will leave the area at noon on Friday, September 5th and expect to arrive at MMS between 2:30 PM and 3:00 PM. **Parents, you may pick up your children at the Middle/High campus at that time or students may ride the bus home at 3:30, in which case students should also be prepared to help clean up the bus.**

CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT LIST - All students please bring the following:

- Hat
- Day Pack—large enough for lunch, journal, rain gear and water bottle
- Water bottle—unbreakable, leak-proof one-quart plastic bottle without a straw, (empty plastic soda or water bottles are good)
- Journal and pen or pencil
- Rain Gear—complete rain suit or poncho (coated nylon is best)
- Brown bag lunch from home for Tuesday
- Sunscreen—SPF 30 or higher
- Handkerchief – to be used for games and as a lunch placemat
- Foot gear—sturdy, ankle supporting, and preferably waterproof for hiking
- Foot gear—a second pair of shoes
- Warm sleeping bag
- Bathing Suit
- Jacket—a lightweight lined parka with a hood is a good choice
- Pants—2-3 pair
- Shirts—short and long, to accommodate the changes in weather
- Sweater—fleece or wool is best
- Socks—1-2 pair per day, wool if possible
- Toiletries—toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, bath towel
- Small pillow
- Plate, knife, fork, spoon, cup, bowl (**unbreakable and labeled!!!**)
- Foam sleeping mat
- Small flashlight

Optional:

- Tent (highly recommended due to mosquitoes) or ground cloth
- Sunglasses
- Camera
- Pajamas

Eighth Graders also bring:

- Waterproof stuff sack—for your sleeping bag. A thick sturdy plastic garbage bag OK
- Backpack – capacity of 3000 cubic inches or more for sleeping bag, food, clothing, personal gear, foam sleeping mat, and tent (optional). Your day pack will not suffice.
- Hiking boots/shoes – sturdy, broken-in and waterproof
- Toilet paper – in zipper lock plastic bag
- Long underwear
- Rope – a few feet for securing equipment

We look forward to seeing you! Premdas, Dayanand, Bob, Sephy, Yogita, and staff