

Carlisle's 8th Grade Class takes a Trip to Washington, D.C.
By Hailey Saylor



__For the fifteenth time in the last two decades, 90 of Chamberlain Middle School's Eighth grade class took a 9-hour road trip to the nation's capitol. From Wednesday to Saturday of the week before Thanksgiving Break, the students who went on the trip saw many historical monuments, museums, and buildings.

On Thursday, after the long midnight drive, the first stop was at Mount Vernon, home of the first President, George Washington. There, they were served breakfast, and then hiked quite a few miles up and down the forested hills to see Washington's farm, the wharf on the Potomac River, and Washington's own home. Afterwards, they hopped back on the bus and ventured across the river to the capitol itself. Lunch was served at the Ronald Reagan Building's food court. Then, they visited the Holocaust Museum and the Newseum, had a taste of Bernucci's Italian for dinner, and saw the Thomas Jefferson and Martin Luther King Jr. monuments and the White House, before finally heading to the Marriott Hotel. Some kids had the chance to swim.

Friday, a breakfast buffet was at the hotel. Then it was off to the Arlington Cemetery, where four students -- Alyssa Nocero, Chesnee Denniston, Grant Chaney, and Derek Sprandel -- participated in the Laying of the Wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While on the bus, we drove past the Marine Corps Memorial, then headed to the Vietnam and Korean war memorials, followed by a visit to the Lincoln statue overlooking the Reflecting Pool and the Washington Monument. After that, we saw the National Cathedral and its beautiful French Gothic-style architecture. Then, we had lunch at the Reagan building again, and afterwards we saw the Smithsonian museum. Finally, we paid a visit to the World War II memorial before driving back to the hotel for a pizza and dance party, which lasted for two hours before we headed back up to our rooms for some sleep before we were to leave in the morning.



A view of the Washington Monument from the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.

After a nice breakfast, we drove a few hours to Gettysburg, where we took a tour from inside the bus due to the rain. After the tour we ate lunch at General Pickett's Buffet, then set out for the remainder of the drive home. We ate dinner at a Zainesville McDonald's and arrived back at the school by 9:30 P.M.

Overall, most students had a pleasant time during their trip to the nation's capitol. The various monuments and historical buildings were pretty cool, and the food was very good. The seventh graders this year will be in for a fun trip by this time next year!