



Dear New Parents and Students,

As 10th Grade Head of Year, I would like to welcome you all to AIS and Grade 10. I hope that you are having a wonderful summer. I know you must be excited and are anticipating your new school and the final year before the International Baccalaureate Program. You all will be receiving a lot of information welcoming you to the AIS community and discussing important dates; however, this letter is to inform you of an exciting experience for just Grade 10 students.

It is an AIS tradition for every grade in the Upper School to take an educational trip to some intriguing corner of the country. This fall, your Grade 10 student will travel to the cultured environs of our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C.

The trip has several purposes important to your student's transition into Grade 10:

1. To establish relationships early in the new school year, as activities will be experienced in both advisory groups and as a whole grade;
2. To educate students in order to form first-hand understanding across a myriad of subjects including history, the arts, culture, American government, and the sciences;
3. To expose students to activities they might not otherwise have experienced and, thus, broaden their horizons;
4. To return to school with common experiences that will allow the new Grade 10 to mesh quickly and develop throughout the year into stronger leaders within the AIS community.

Although the exact itinerary is still being developed, the initial plans include:

Travel to Washington DC by plane on Monday, September 15

Stay in a hotel in the city and commute around the city by Metro, (the underground rail system)

Visit important sites and monuments: The Smithsonian Museums, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Memorial, The White House, Holocaust Museum, Kennedy's Gravesite in Arlington and watch the changing of the guard, and a tour of Congress

A visit to Mt. Vernon (home of George Washington), and The Kennedy Center (dinner and a play)

Return to Atlanta by plane arriving that evening, Thursday, September 18

I hope you'll agree that this is an exciting and varied trip with something for all the students to enjoy. I hope that you will support our efforts in such a vital year of your child's education. As mentioned above, the details are still to be finalized; however, initial calculations indicate the cost per student to be approximately \$725, including airfare, hotel, transport around the city, all meals, and all exhibits.

Final payment for the trip will be due on August 29. Please bring all checks, (payable to Atlanta International School), to Layne Stabler in the Upper School office. Checks should indicate the full name of your student on the memo line.

If you have any questions or would simply like to say, "Hello", please e-mail me at jburris@aischool.org. I look forward to meeting each of you early in the new school year.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Jessica L. Burris

Head of Grade 10