

Palmetto Middle School
CLOSE UP FIELD TRIP
Washington, DC (and Williamsburg, VA)
February 26 to March 2, 2023

Dear parents and 8th grade students,

We are happy to announce that Palmetto Middle will once again participate in the dynamic, hands-on, civic education program *Close Up* in Washington, DC.

With over 40 years of experience, *Close Up* is the nation's largest non-profit and non-partisan citizenship education organization and they are driven by a mission to help students become more effective and informed citizens. *Close Up's* programs are designed to give students direct opportunities to interact with government and history in Washington, DC, while exploring the links between history and the rights and responsibilities of citizens today. Students benefit from *Close Up's* strong curriculum and spend time interacting with peers from across the country as they visit DC's famous sites including Capitol Hill, the National Archives, Smithsonian Museums, Arlington Cemetery, and much more. In addition, we will take a day trip to historic Williamsburg, Virginia where students will experience a reenactment of the colonial city. This is sure to be an enriching and exciting experience that will provide lifelong memories for our students. For more information you can visit www.Closeup.org and see a sample travel itinerary in the program brochure here:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/closeupfoundation/fy23-ms-web-brochure-duiq9mmxu3/full-view.html>

Our trip is limited to 50 participants. Students who would like to participate will be selected for travel based on good academic standing, excellent behavior, and good attendance.

Parents who are interested in having their students travel on this trip must adhere to the following process in order to have their student become eligible for the selection process:

1. Read and carefully review all attached documents included on our website under *Close Up*. Note all policies, procedures, and protocols.

2. Print and sign the following MDCPS documents: Waiver Release and Hold Harmless, *Close Up* Trip Parent Agreement, and Student Behavioral Expectations Contract.
3. Print and sign the following *Close Up* documents: Program Information.
4. Submit the printed and signed forms to Mrs. Castillo starting on **Monday, November 7th and no later than Monday, November 14th**. Only the students who submit within these dates will be eligible for the selection process.
5. Administrative review will verify students' attendance, academic, and behavior standing. Eligible students will be chosen through a lottery selection process to fill the 50 available spots.
6. Once students are selected, parents and students will receive an assigned *Close Up* code in order to register and pay the NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$500 on the *Close Up* website.
7. Please do not contact *Close Up* until the student is cleared through the school and has received the *Close Up* code.