

**Parental Commitment to the 2016–2017
8th Grade Trip to New Orleans**

General Information:

1. The 8th grade trip to New Orleans is sponsored by Académie Lafayette.
2. The dates for the trip this year are Saturday, May 21 to Friday, May 27.
3. The trip to New Orleans was started in 2013 to give 8th grade students a culminating experience as well as an opportunity to learn more about the multi-ethnic heritage of the United States. In addition, because of the continuing social service needs in New Orleans caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, there are opportunities for our students to help with the rebuilding effort.
4. The students travel by motorcoach to New Orleans where they stay in volunteer housing accommodations. The trip is organized through NetWork Voluntours. NetWork Voluntours organizes all logistics, including lodging, meals, volunteer and cultural experiences for the students and chaperones.
5. The cost of the trip to New Orleans is approximately \$1,000. It is divided into two parts:
 - a. Travel Cost: The travel portion of the trip costs between \$300–\$400 per person traveling. This includes travel to and around New Orleans in one or two motor coaches and lodging for the drivers.
 - i. The school, with fundraising assistance from the proceeds of the Raffle and PTSO-led fundraising events, is responsible for the Travel costs associated with the trip.
 - b. Student Cost: Student cost is \$650. This covers: lodging, meals, admission to cultural and historic sites/tours, chaperones.
 - i. The student and his/her family are responsible for the Student Costs of the trip. Families may begin making payments for the trip on September 15, and continue to make a payment each month until April. Payments are made on the 15th, or the Monday that follows if the 15th falls on the weekend. The first payment is \$90, and subsequent payments are \$80 a month. Payments may be in the form of checks turned in at the front office, or online. The link for online payments can be found on the Academie Lafayette web page, under the tab “Students” – “8th Grade Trip”. All payments must be received by April 15, 2017.
6. Typically \$200 scholarships are available to students who need travel assistance. An application will be available for all families who would like one. To be eligible, you must turn it into the office by the due date on the application.
7. For any other questions, please contact:
Marcia Berry (mberry@academielafayette.org) or
Marilyn Hynes (mhynes@academielafayette.org) or 816.361.7735

Please detach and return:

Commitment:

I (we), _____, parent(s)/guardian(s) of

_____, have read and agree to the above information and guidelines

pertaining to 8th grade travel to New Orleans, Louisiana, in May 2017.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) signature(s): _____

