

The Eighth Grade Goes to Washington by Liam Hatgas

From November 3 to November 5, the eighth grade had the privilege of visiting our nation's capital, Washington D.C. This trip was made possible by Mrs. Ungvasky and the 8th grade parents who organized the entire trip for us. The eighth grade got to see many sights.

When the Saint Charles Class of 2019 arrived in Washington D.C., we first went to the Ford Theater, the place where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. Next, the eighth grade went to the National Archives building to see the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Eighth grader Zach Cuglewski asked the docent why the Articles of Confederation were not on display. The docent then explained that the Articles of Confederation are about 300 pages! Zach was really surprised to learn how long they are. After that, the class got to see the White House. Dennis Keeler said that he will always remember the White House and its "majestic appearance." After the White House we saw the Jefferson Memorial, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

The next morning we went to The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and participated in the Mass. After Mass and a tour of the Basilica, we went to Virginia to see Arlington Cemetery, a very somber and respectful place. Kevin Williams said that Arlington Cemetery made the biggest impression on him of anything we saw. He said it was "one of the most somber places I have ever been to." At the cemetery we got to see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Luke Schill said seeing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was the thing he had most been looking forward to, and he was "very excited to see all the ceremonies, such as the guard change and the wreath presentation." After that we got to choose what museum we wanted to go to. These museums included the Holocaust Museum, the American History Museum, and the Air and Space Museum. After going through the museum of our choice, the eighth grade saw the World War II Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial. The class of 2019 ended the day with a cruise.

On day three of this trip, we took our bus to Gettysburg, where we received a tour of the battlefield. After Gettysburg, we went to the Flight 93 Memorial. We then headed home to Saint Charles. Eighth grader Antonio Briggs had some advice for future classes visiting Washington D.C.: "Pay attention to all the memorials and the museums and take advantage of your situation. It could be a once in a lifetime opportunity!"

On behalf of the class of 2019, I want to thank all the parents who helped make this trip possible. It was very fun and we learned a lot, so thank you!