

Dear Students and Parents,

Thank you for your interest in Close Up!. It is time to start recruiting and signing up for Close Up 2019-20. All students who are Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors in the 2019 – 2020 school year are eligible to attend the Close Up Washington program. This year we will be attending Close Up from Sunday, January the 19th to Friday, January 24thTH .

We have scheduled a parent meeting for Thursday, August 22nd at 6:00pm in the WHS Chorus room. The meeting should last about 30 minutes and we will cover all of the essential information regarding travel, accommodations, fundraising, and sample itineraries.

Close Up is a week long experience in Washington, D.C., which provides students with an opportunity to better understand their responsibilities as citizens that participate in our democratic process. It is not a sightseeing tour but a government adventure program that will enlighten our young people and encourage them to take an active role in our community. Close Up is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that has been helping our nation's young adults realize the importance of being actively involved in local, state, national and international issues since 1971.

The cost for this year's trip is **\$1680.00** if you fly with the group. **If you fly independently you can deduct \$343 from the price.** Independent travel means that the student is responsible for flying to Washington, D.C. and providing transportation to the hotel.

A deposit of **\$400** is due by September 26th. The deposit is non refundable.

The balance of your trip, the remaining **balance (approx \$1280)** will be due on or before **November 15th**. Since Close Up is a non-profit organization, all donations toward any student's tuition are tax-deductible. We are allotted **30** spots to go this year. It will be based on a first come basis. In the past the spots have gone very quickly. It is possible we could be allotted more spots in the fall if Close Up does not get their maximum number.

*******NEW THIS YEAR!!!!**

We plan to start a new program this year called the Close Up Workshop. As not all of our participants have had US History or Government classes, we have decided this would provide a great opportunity for them to get acclimated with the city structure and processes of government. This workshop which will require all students enrolled to pay a fee of \$25 and agree to attend two instruction meetings where they will be prepped for the trip, both academically and logistically. Both meetings will be offered before and after school to accommodate band and sports. We will provide pizza and drinks for the meetings.

Once a student is enrolled (by the teachers) and makes a deposit on the Close Up website, then Close Up begins the process of booking airline tickets, hotel rooms, meals, etc. for our group. Each student that registers on the Close-Up website is given a participant number and all transactions are then processed by the Close Up staff. You can make payments monthly on your account if you would like. We do our best to stay in touch throughout the year. We send out messages through email and text using a group server. We will also be creating a new Facebook page for the coming year and have meetings here at school. You can also reach any of us using the information provided below. Thanks so much!

Adam Holley and Sherry Stout

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