

Frequently asked questions Grade 9 trip to Quebec and Ottawa

We have had many emails asking questions that were discussed either at the meeting or in the letters that were sent home, in order to better answer all of these questions more efficiently, we have answers to the most common questions below.

1. Dates: March 22-26th
2. Student to chaperone ratio: 1-12 (approx.)
3. Students that stay back, will be in classes doing work, teachers going will be leaving lesson plans for the students to do. If more students are going on the trip than staying, the students staying may be grouped together to make it easier for supervising and doing educational activities.
4. If you would like to be considered as a chaperone, please indicate that on the letter that was sent home on Tuesday, November 10th.
5. **First payment** of \$300.00 + optional insurance \$39.00 is due on Friday, November 20th, cheques are preferred and can be made out to Queen Charlotte Intermediate School.
6. A mandatory meeting will be held for any parent who is interested in doing **fund-raising**, this meeting will be announced at a later date, once we know how many people are interested, once again indicate if you are interested on the letter that was sent home on Tuesday.
7. **Pocket money**: is up to the individual student and parent, all meals, hotels and buses are paid for, as well as activities (excluding the amusement park should your child choose to go during their lunch hour). Shopping is not included in the price. Students will get some opportunity but not much, to go shopping during their lunch hour.
8. **Rooms and roommates**: we will, at a later date, be asking students to provide a list of three people they would like to share a room with, we will do our best to accommodate that list, but will most certainly try to have at least one person from that list in their room. They will be four to a room with two queen beds.
9. Payments, if you choose to, you can forward the payments ahead of time,
 - \$300.00 + \$39.00 optional insurance for the first payment due on November 20th
 - \$300.00 due on January 8th
 - \$275-\$225 due on February 5th (amount will depend on the number of students participating and if fund-raising was done or not), we ask that this amount not be handed in until we know these details.
10. We will know more about how many students and **chaperones** will be participating in the trip once students have handed in their forms, which we requested for Friday, November 13th and once again once the payments have been brought in, November 20th (confirming that the student is participating in the trip).

11. Refunds:

Purchasing the optional insurance, gives refunds to students who need to opt out of the trip due to sickness or family sickness, it also covers for trip cancellation due to weather or restrictions such as H1N1 or others.

The optional insurance does not cover for students who cancel due to tournaments, suspension or reasons other than medical.

If a student must cancel the trip at a later date a portion of the money may be returned, however, you have to understand that not the whole amount will be able to be refunded as the price of the trip depends on the numbers of students attending, therefore if we have any students backing out, this could change the price for all activities, transportation and lodging. An alternative to this would be to find someone else who would be willing to go in lieu of the student (this may prove to be difficult as this year, we are not doing lottery style, if a student wants to go and they have the means to go, they go, so there will most likely not be a list of alternates as there was in the past).

12. Who gets to go: any grade nine student who wants to participate has a chance to participate, if they have the means to pay for the trip and they agree to the condition stated in the letter sent home on Tuesday, November 10th, they get to participate in the trip. The more the merrier! As we stated at the meeting, the price depends on the number of students participating and the number of buses we'll need to take.

13. Cell phone use: Students are permitted to bring cell phones and Ipods however, we are not responsible if these items are lost. We also are enforcing the fact that while they are out on an activity (museum, tour, etc) that cell phones are to be turned off and they can use them on their free time to check in with home. We will also have a time set by which all students should no longer be making personal phone calls and cell phones should be set to vibrate or off for the night, seeing as they are sharing a room with three other people and they should be getting some sleep.

We hope that the answers to these questions will help you make your decision.

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