



**Virgil Grissom High School
Performance Tour of Washington, D.C.
March 5 – 10, 2025**

The following itinerary provides an overview of your tour events and timings.
**** It is important to understand that times and activities are subject to change before or during the tour. ****

Working Itinerary

July 22, 2024

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

- Depart** Depart Virgil Grissom High School this morning to begin your journey to Washington D.C. (Approximate drive time is 10 ½ hours without stops, 702 miles.)
- Lunch** On your own enroute.
- Arrival** Welcome to Washington D.C.! Your Gateway Tour Manager will greet you upon arrival.
- Dinner** A meal stipend (\$15 value) will be provided enroute to Washington, D.C.
- Hotel** Your Gateway Tour Manager will assist with hotel check-in.

Hilton Garden Inn Reagan National Airport
2020 Richmond Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
Phone: 703-892-1050

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Breakfast	Included
♪ Clinic	Participate in a clinic in Washington, D.C. or the surrounding area. <i>Clinics are often held in churches, school auditoriums or rehearsal spaces. Ensembles perform selections of their repertoire and receive instruction from a respected local music director. Typical lengths range from 45-60 minutes per ensemble. There are no audiences.</i>
Spy Museum	The International Spy Museum is one of the most popular attractions in Washington, D.C. The \$40 million-dollar high-tech museum traces the evolution of espionage and explores the role intelligence gathering plays in current world events. When you enter the museum, you are asked to choose a "cover" – a false identity like those used by spies. Afterwards you are free to explore the museum, but one exhibit will test your memory of your cover information. (Currently closes at 7 pm)
Lunch	On your own
Museum of African American History	The newest Smithsonian museum, devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, art, history, and culture. (Admittance is based on availability.)
Dinner	Hard Rock Cafe or similar
Illuminated Tour	A licensed Washington, DC tour guide will join you on your motorcoach for a narrated tour of the illuminated memorials and monuments.



Friday, March 7, 2025

Breakfast	Included
Capitol Tour*	Tour the United States Capitol, the Senate Chamber, the President's Room, the National Statuary Hall and much more. *Tours of the United States Capitol can be booked directly by Gateway but we are unable to obtain a gallery pass to the House or Senate. Gallery passes can be requested through your local senator or congressperson and are subject to availability and acceptance.
White House Tour*	Tour the White House and learn about aspects of the White House, including its architecture, furnishings, first families, social events, relations with the press and world leaders. *Tours of the White House must be requested directly through your local senator or congressperson and are typically not confirmed until 60 days prior. The White House is closed to the public on Sunday and Mondays.
Lunch	On your own
City Tour	Tour our nation's capital with licensed tour guides, driving past the National Mall, Washington Memorial, National Cathedral, Embassy Row, and much more.
Ford's Theater and Museum	Take a self-guided tour through Ford's Theater, where a single shot resulted in the death of Abraham Lincoln (subject to availability).
Dinner	Carmine's or similar
National Harbor	Spend time at the National Harbor tonight. Located along the Potomac River, it's one of D.C.'s most popular destinations with more than 160 shops and restaurants. The Capital Wheel is a Ferris wheel that soars 180 feet in the air, with spectacular views of the city.
The Capital Wheel	Experience unparalleled views of the Capital City, Maryland, and Virginia as you soar through the air at National Harbor's Capital Wheel. Rising 180 feet above the Potomac River, this one-of-a-kind ride includes spectacular views of our nation's capital.



Saturday, March 8, 2025

Breakfast	Included
Smithsonian	Explore one of the fourteen national museums including the American History Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Air and Space Museum and/or the National Zoo (some may require a free timed entrance).
National Mall	It is here you can see the Washington Monument rise majestically to the sky, surrounded by the stately U.S. Capitol Building at one end and the dignified Lincoln Memorial at the other, it's hard not to think of America's history. Explore the swath of land nicknamed "America's front yard" and you'll find inspiring monuments, memorials and museums.
🎵 Public Performance	A public performance will be scheduled at one of Washington, D.C.'s public venues such as the Jefferson Memorial, FDR Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, WWII Memorial or the Sylvan Theater. Other performance options may include Union Station, Kennedy Center or Mount Vernon (based on availability and acceptance).
Lunch	On your own
Union Station	Union Station opened in 1907 and at its height, during WWII, some 200,000 people passed through every day. Today Union Station remains one of Washington's busiest and best-known shopping and dining areas, visited by 32 million people each year.
Dinner	Pizzeria Uno or similar



Sunday, March 9, 2025

Breakfast Included

Arlington Cemetery Tour Arlington National Cemetery. Important sites include: The Tomb of the Unknowns, Robert E. Lee House, Kennedy Grave Site, Pan Am Flight 103, and the Challenger.

Gus Grissom Gravesite Walk together as a group and visit the gravesite of Gus Grissom. One of the original Mercury 7 astronauts, Grissom was the second American to fly in space, aboard Liberty Bell 7. He commanded the first Gemini flight, Gemini III, and was scheduled to command the first Apollo mission. He died in the 1967 Apollo 1 fire.

Wreath Laying A wreath laying ceremony will be arranged for your group. (Subject to availability)

Lunch On your own

Mount Vernon Take a self-guided tour at George Washington's Mt. Vernon Estates and Gardens. You will have time to tour the Mansion, George Washington's tomb, and several of the 12 outbuildings which include the slave quarters, kitchen, stables and greenhouse.

Dinner Cruise Cruise along the Potomac River and as you dine, the ship's singers will entertain you. After dinner, dance the night away to music provided by the on-board DJ.



Monday, March 10, 2025

- Breakfast** Included
- Check Out** Your Gateway Tour Manager will assist with the check-out logistics.
- Depart** Board motorcoaches and travel to Alabama.
- Lunch** On your own enroute