

SPRING BREAK CHINA EXPERIENCE

(This is a regional school board-approved trip)

TO: Members of Advanced Placement Human Geography Classes and other students of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

RE: Special Opportunity for Hands-On Experiences in Beijing, Xian & Shanghai

Our Advanced Placement Human Geography classes are involved with a unique and special activity for our classroom during the coming academic school year (2011-2012). We will participate in learning and travel experience to Beijing and Xian, China over the Spring Break period (April 6th-14th) in 2012. This trip will support and supplement the themes of our class by direct and participatory activities in these Chinese cities. The data and materials that we observe discuss and collect can be utilized in our end of the year class activity after we complete the Advanced Placement Human Geography examination in May. The theme of the 2012 project stresses the impact of urbanization and its effects on the landscape and environment of the target example. Those students who do not attend can continue to complete their projects by the use of textbook sources and other online opportunities related to these specific cultural, geographical, social and economic developments in both Beijing and Xian.

I trust that you will discuss and explore this opportunity with your parents at home sometime before our first meeting.

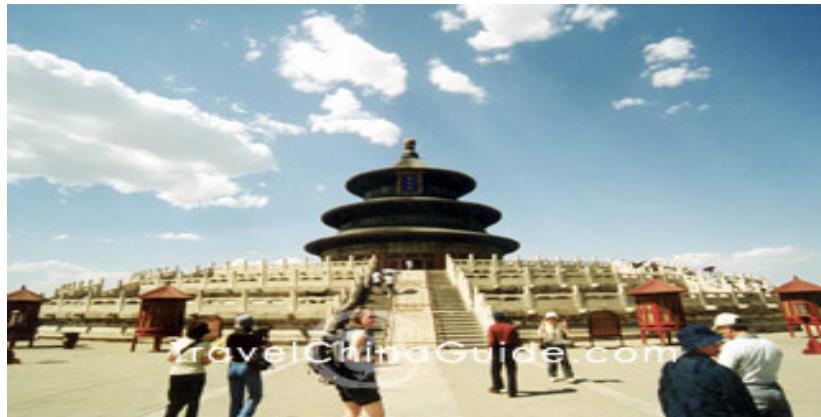
A trip meeting at school is on the 27th of October at 6:30 PM in the FORUM to discuss the specifics of our travel to China in Spring, 2012.

Please note the following if you are interested in coming on this trip:

1. If you do not have a VALID PASSPORT, please start the process of getting your passport application within the next two-to-three weeks.
2. If you have a passport, please check that the EXPIRATION Date is valid until 2013.
3. A check for \$95.00, made out to MLWGSGIS for deposit to hold your place and be on the list...this is NOT refundable. This will enable us to begin the process of reserving seats and housing for the April 2012 Expedition to China.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Mrs. McKay, Dr. Ellis, Mrs. Grois, Chaperones



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR APRIL TRIP

Leaving Richmond and depart from RIC, travel to New York, and connect at JFK via AirChina for Beijing.... Cost Estimate.....\$3750.00

APRIL 6th: Departure from the USA

APRIL 7th: Beijing You will cross the International Dateline today before landing in Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China. You are greeted at the airport by your local host and taken to your hotel where the balance of the day is free to relax and unpack.

APRIL 8th: Beijing-Forbidden City-Beijing Guided sightseeing this morning reveals Beijing's Tiananmen Square to see the Great Hall of the People, the Monument to People's Heroes, and the Chairman Mao Zedong Memorial Hall. In the "Forbidden City," once only accessible to the Emperors, you'll visit the Summer Palace to see Kunming Lake and the famous Marble Boat. End your tour with a visit to the Temple of Heaven, constructed without a single nail! Return for dinner at hotel.

APRIL 9th: Beijing-Great Wall-Beijing Travel to Badaling to see one of the ancient world's seven wonders, the Great Wall of China, with its 3,750 miles of wall. Visit the Ming Tombs, where thirteen emperors are buried, and the Avenue of the Animals, where giant marble animals guard the approach to the final gate. After your visit, return to Beijing.

APRIL 10th: Beijing-Flight to Xi'an Today, you'll board your flight to Xi'an, once the world's largest city, capital of eleven dynasties, where the balance of your day is free to begin your exploration of the city.

APRIL 11th: Xi'an Today's guided sightseeing of Xi'an reveals the tomb of Qin Shi Huangdi, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, and the Shaanxi Provincial Museum to see one of China's finest collections of ancient artifacts. Marvel at the remarkable Terra Cotta Warriors who once guarded the Emperor's tomb, and watch a 3-D film which documents the excavation of these amazing life-like figures.

APRIL 12th: Xi'an-Flight to Shanghai Board your flight to Shanghai, China's largest city and the center of Chinese industry. Upon arrival, your guided sightseeing tour includes visits to the Children's Palace, the Shanghai Museum and the Bund, a park-like promenade overlooking the waterfront. Enjoy views of Yu Yuan Garden with its tea houses, pavilions and ponds and the Jade Buddha Temple.

APRIL 13th: Shanghai-Train to Suzhou-Shanghai Board the morning express train to Suzhou, the "Venice of the East." Upon arrival, sightseeing of Shanghai shows you the famous Fishnet Gardens, Tiger Hill Temple and the Silk Museum. Observe how silk is made at a local Silk Factory before returning to Shanghai.

APRIL 14th: Departure, Fly today to Beijing and RIC

