

Dear Eighth Grade Families,

It is with heavy hearts that, despite our very best efforts to postpone and reschedule, we have to cancel the 8th grade Israel study trip. There are no words to express the sense of loss we all share over this unfortunate consequence of what is happening world-wide. We made every effort to move the dates, but were unsuccessful.

Our team will convene to creatively envision an alternative educational, community experience for the 8th graders, and we will be in touch about that in the coming weeks.

We are working out the financial details and will communicate those as soon as we are able. Here is some preliminary information:

- We are working with the travel agent and Israel Maven Tours to negotiate a cancellation with minimal fees.
- Students who were awarded Jewish Federation scholarships: they can be used for other peer-based trips if your children travel in 2020. If your children do not use it, you can reapply in future years but that money is not guaranteed.
- I am hoping that with your permission, we can use a portion of the fundraising money to pay for alternative educational, experiential, community-building experiences for your children. Please reply with your approval or disapproval of using some of the funds.
- We will recalculate your child's account when we have information about cancellation fees and your response to the question above. The rest of the funds your class raised for this trip will be distributed to you for a future Israel trip for your child. Totals will be calculated by the end of the school year.

These days are difficult for all of us, and surely the emotional impact on our students will be profound. The Israel trip is a signature experience and your children have been looking forward to it for years. We wish that we were able to make the trip a reality, and our hearts are broken with and for you. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Warmly,
Cheryl and Becky