



Student Exchange Programme
The Warriner School
Oxfordshire UK
With
Ormond Stone Middle School
Virginia USA.
2015-2016



Student Exchange Programme

**The Warriner School with Ormond Stone
Middle School, in Virginia,
Washington DC. USA**

After many years of highly successful student exchange visits we are delighted to be able to offer again, to our present Year 7 and Year 8 students, the opportunity to visit our partner school Ormond Stone Middle School situated in Virginia, USA.

The exchange will consist of 18 students and 4 staff members. Students will be living in the homes of their exchange partner, attending school and going on field trips in both countries.

We will be travelling to Virginia, USA on **Friday 12th February 2016** and returning overnight on **Saturday 20th February 2016** arriving at The Warriner around **10am on Sunday 21st February 2016**.

The American students and staff will be visiting the Warriner to stay with their partners arriving at Heathrow early on **Saturday 19th March 2016** and **departing Saturday 26th March 2016**



Stone Middle School is in a largely suburban commuter area called Centreville, in Fairfax County. It is just over the River Potomac from Washington DC. Many of the parents work either for the military at the Pentagon, or they work for the Government.

It is a well-run orderly school with about 950 students of Grade 7 & 8, which is the equivalent of our Years 8 & 9.

We leave The Warriner very early on the Friday morning for Heathrow and fly into Dulles Airport Washington DC to be met by the host families. Students go home from the airport with their 'USA Buddies' where they spend unstructured family time for the weekend.

Even though the downtime at the weekends and in the evenings is time for the host family to plan as unstructured time, it is usual for families to get together and visit a ball game, laser tag or just to visit a shopping mall. There are many differing experiences to suit everyone's interests.

Monday to Friday are a mixture of field trip visits and school days. Our students will experience life as a student in the States, attending lessons alongside their partners at Stone School.



There will be a field trip to Washington DC which may include a visit to Capitol Hill, various War Memorials and, if security clearance allows, a visit to The White House. Here we will meet with a member of the Presidents Protection Team and will be given a private tour of the inside of this famous building.

There will also be opportunity to visit some of the Smithsonian Museums located nearby, the Space Museum and the American Indian Museum to name just two.



There are many amazing sights to see in DC and the host families may also take our students there. There will be a field trip to Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. Sitting high above the Potomac River, the site is also his resting place. There should also be time to visit the National Harbour located nearby where students will have time to explore the harbor and local shops.



On past trips our students have greatly appreciated the time spent enjoying the warm hospitality of the host families. Friendships have been cemented between both students and their parents.

These can be long lasting friendships which for some of our previous exchange students are still continuing today and have led to families planning their own return visits. We find that once a student has been on the exchange then younger brothers or sisters see the fun that has been had and they too want to take part in future visits. We believe this shows the success of the exchange programme.



Although just under a year away, preparation for this exchange starts early. There will be a series of joint satellite linked lessons, where students will be able to join together experiencing each other's teaching and learning. There will be familiarisation meetings so that the group, students and staff, will get to know each other, allowing students to form friendships.

Once we know who is attending the pairs are put in touch with each other and are encouraged to contact via email, FaceTime and Skype so that they become familiar with each other. This also means that by the time the students meet they already feel that they know the family that they are staying with and any concerns can be discussed and ironed out in advance.

A little nearer to the time of the visit there will be a parents and students meeting where arrangements are discussed and all questions answered. There will be a satellite link with the parents and students from the States so that everyone is part of a larger link up which also helps to dispel any concerns there might be.

Next Steps... We do not have a formal selection process, our policy is that the trip is an open opportunity for all. However we must stress that when applying to be involved in this programme certain criteria must be applied. Students need to be independent, mature, and able to follow directions. Students are expected to be able to communicate with their host family members, monitor hygiene, and manage their behaviour.

It is important to remember that this is an exchange and part of the deal is to have a student come to stay in your home for a week to live as part of your family. The pairings will be same gender and age. The visiting

student may not need their own room to sleep in but they will need their own bed, the hospitality our students will receive in the States during their family time is to be reciprocated when they visit here.

Oxfordshire County Council Safeguarding Team have recently directed schools to DBS check all hosting parents and anyone 17 years and above living in the household. If you hold a current DBS that will be used. It goes without saying that Mrs Amielia Mitchell, the Principal at Stone, selects her host families very carefully to ensure the security, happiness and success of the students on the exchange.



At present we are unable to give an exact cost for this trip as field trip venues have not yet released prices. The estimated total cost is based on 18 students from The Warriner and is around £1,130 per student. Please do bear in mind that this is for a two week trip in two countries and includes flights, airport tax, insurance and all day trips in the UK and US. A payment card will be arranged spreading the cost over 10 months.

If you would like your Son/ Daughter to be part of this amazing opportunity then please complete the slip attached and return it in an envelope to the Finance post box by lunchtime on Thursday 7th May 15. If you would like further details or you have any concerns then please contact Mrs Gardner, trip Coordinator on 01295 722886 who will be more than happy to go through any questions with you.