

Day 2 – Rainy Weather Can’t Keep Us from Soaking in the Sights! – Pun Intended 😊

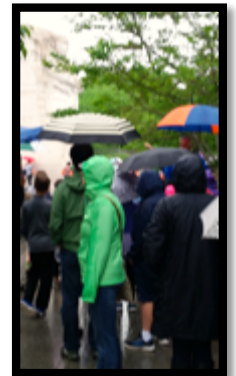
Our Leesville Cubs emerged from their rooms this morning... tired, hungry, but determined to make the most of the precious time we have here in DC. By the time we boarded the buses, the students were all fed, rain-gear-ed up... the chaperones had their full dose of coffee to carry them through to lunch... we were ready for DC!

The first stop this morning was the Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Memorial. This is an amazing venue that takes its visitors through the most significant aspects of each of the four terms of FDR’s Presidency. The students were inspired by the statues, the fountains (FDR did love the water), and his most well known, and frequently referred to, quotations.



We then strolled around to one of my personal favorites, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. This is an incredible representation of perhaps the most important figure of the American Civil Rights Movement. Constructed out of granite, the memorial is in three major parts, with the centerpiece pushed forward with an enormous carved statue of Dr. King holding his I Have a Dream speech. The statue is presented as an unfinished figure. I have to point out that when our group was asked by our tour guide as to why this was the case, the thoughtful and outstandingly articulate response from one of our own Leesville Cubs is totally worth sharing... **It looks unfinished because it is up to us to continue the movement. Wow, right? Well-done Leesville 5th grade teachers 😊**



We reloaded onto our buses and made our way back into the center of the city to give our students a brief souvenir shopping opportunity. While the sights and visitations have been great for the students, do not be disheartened when you speak to your child upon their return only to be told that the best part of the trip was, in fact, the souvenir shopping. This always seems to be the case. I assure you that they are having a very meaningful and mind-broadening time.



After corralling the children back onto the buses, we went directly back to the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum. It was well worth persevering the downpour outside in the security line to see the wonders available inside. I always love to see the expressions on the students’ faces when they enter for the first time and look up to see planes, rockets, and the evolution of the drone. Another awesome opportunity for the students is



to see the plane used by the Wright Brothers to make NC first in flight.

We left the Air and Space Museum to walk to the Capital. Along the way, our group picked up facts about the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court. Once we entered the Capital, we viewed the historical documentary about the Capital before being met by our tour guide and taken into the various rooms. The tour



guides were amazing this year and really connected with our students. From the scaffold covered Rotunda to Statuary Hall, the students were totally sucked in by a humorous, yet highly informative young man, who could not be stumped by any of the questions posed by our inquisitive young Cubs.



Following the Capital, we boarded our buses and made our way for one of the greatest all time photo opportunities. We went to the White House... granted, not inside the gates, but to the White House nonetheless. I have been there quite a few times and always feel moved by it and by what it represents, but there is something especially exciting about seeing the White House with others, who have never personally seen it, like over 100 5th graders. I was especially thrilled with the way our students rallied to get grouped together for the photo above... our best one yet.

From this point forward, we proceeded to the Jefferson Memorial by the Tidal Pool. Our students spent their time figuring out what the Memorial might teach them about the former President... did you know that the statue of Jefferson was built to look directly at the White House? Well, neither did we until today.

From there, we went to dinner at the Reagan Building, took a quick stop at the Iwo Jima Memorial (still one of my favorites), and then called it a night back at the hotel to get a solid night of sleep before one more final push through a great whirlwind tour of Washington DC.