



August 2, 2010

Dear Adolescent 1 Family,

The Odyssey East trip is only six weeks away. The focus of this year's Odyssey will be the ecology, geology, and history of the American West. Some of the highlights of the trip include visits and investigations of Little Bighorn National Monument, Pipestone National Monument, Wind Cave, and Devil's Tower National Park. Students will also be hiking Bear Butte, an important cultural and spiritual landmark for many Native people, specifically the Lakota. The packing list is enclosed, please follow it for all items listed are needed for the trip. We will discuss the trip in detail, hand out the detailed itinerary, answer questions, and complete all necessary forms at the **Odyssey Orientation September 1st at 6:30 PM**

The students will be divided into two groups* for the trip; each group will have different departure times. **One group will need to arrive by 7 AM and the other group 8:30 AM on Saturday September 11**, actual departure is about an hour after students arrive. **Students should bring a sack lunch for the first day.** We will return around 5:00 PM on Friday September 17. **Students should bring ALL of their gear (medium duffle bag, sleeping bag and pad, and backpack) to GRS on Friday, September 10.**

The Odyssey is exciting and full of adventure, as well as being physically and intellectually challenging. Wyoming, Montana, and the Black Hills have variable weather during the early fall, so it is important students are prepared for a hot or cold, rain or sun, etc. as we will be outside camping, walking, or visiting places most of the time we are gone. Students can build endurance and physical stamina for this trip by eating healthy meals, walking outside often and for 1-2 miles, biking and generally exercising.

We are excited and look forward to our seventh Odyssey at Great River School. If you have any questions about the trip, please contact Ben Moudry (651.305.2780, ext. 137 or bmoudry@greatriverschool.org).

Sincerely,

Adolescent 1 Guides (Kira Donnelly, Mary Gantenbein, Ben Moudry, Mike Sweet, Randi McClure, Zack Scott, and Sarah Lawrence-Lupton)

*Facts and reasoning for splitting into two groups: We split into two groups because it allows for a more intimate experience at campgrounds and historic sites, it is more manageable for camping, and it is easier for students to form friendships from a smaller group. The week after we return we will be working on blending the two groups back together and creating a whole community bond for the remainder of the year. Each group will have 50 students with 5 guides (teachers). On September 9th, students will receive a letter to take home that informs them of their Odyssey group and its itinerary.

**Please note our Adolescent 1 Academic Parent Orientation will be Tuesday October 5th at 6:30 PM