



Русская программа Summer 2008 Trip to Russia!

April 17, 2007

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am writing you this letter to announce plans for a **Student Trip to Russia in Summer 2008**, tentatively scheduled June 16 - June 24 through EF Educational Tours. There will be an **INFORMATIONAL MEETING for parents (and students) on Tuesday, May 15, 5-6pm**, in my classroom (room R13, west side, upstairs, facing the parking lot) at Mansfield High School. This meeting is in no way obligatory, nor does it indicate any commitment to travel on your part. If you are even slightly curious, the more you find out as soon as possible, the easier the registration/payment process will be.

During our tour, we will visit many famous sites, including the Kremlin, the Armory Palace Museum, the Winter Palace, Peter and Paul Fortress, and the St. Petersburg History Museum, with optional excursions to Sergiev Posad and Petrodvorets, as well. The itinerary is, briefly, DFW to Moscow, Moscow to St. Petersburg by sleeper train, and St. Petersburg to DFW.

In June 2006 I led a small group of students on an inaugural trip to Russia using EF Tours. This trip was a great time and a complete success! I chose to travel EF because they have been in business for over 40 years and have offices around the world, which makes me feel secure. EF is also accredited, which means that students can earn high school credit by going on tour and completing associated coursework. Another factor in my choice is that EF guarantees the lowest prices for the highest quality. The **cost of a 9-day trip is about \$2600 for students** and includes round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, a full-time EF Tour Director, daily breakfast and dinner, entrance fees to select attractions, and guided sightseeing tours.

For college bound students, a trip like this will give them a competitive edge when applying to colleges. For all students, it is an opportunity of a lifetime and it will not only help their school work but it will help them mature and grow as young adults. This trip is open to recent high school graduates, as well.

I encourage you take the first step-- even if only out of curiosity-- by attending the meeting next month; however, if you are familiar with this trip, EF Tours, or are have made the choice to register your child, you may go online to www.eftours.com/student and use the tour number **973071** in order to view the tour information. *Space is limited on the trip, so it is first-come, first-serve!* From there, you can select "Enroll on your Teacher's Tour" and pay a \$95 application fee with a check or credit card. If you would like to speak with our EF tour consultant, Lauren Prone, to enroll over the phone, you can call her at 1-800-637-8222, extension 3626.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This trip is open to all students, not just those taking Russian, and not necessarily those attending Mansfield High School. In fact, a knowledge of Russian would be helpful, of course, but is not at all a trip requirement!

Beginning next month, I will continue to post information about this trip on the MHS Russian program website: mhsrussian.shorturl.com (you can see pictures of the 2006 trip there). If you have any concerns, please email me at holsed@mansfieldisd.org.

Hope to see you on the 15th!! (Fund-raising ideas will be welcomed at this meeting!!)

E.B. Holschuh
Russian 1 & 2 (and 3 in '07-08!)
Mansfield High School
3001 E. Broad St.
Mansfield, TX 76063