

Dear Educators:

It's time to schedule the Rubell foundation trips to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Please read the information below and get back to us as soon as possible.

Our office, the Holocaust of MetroWest helps organize trips to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. each month during the academic year. These trips are supported by the Morris Rubell Holocaust Foundation and are offered to public and private schools at no cost to the school or to the students.

This program was conceived by Michael Rubell in memory of his father, Morris, who was nine years old when his world was ripped apart by the Nazi occupation of Poland. Morris was separated from his family and endured the horrors of Plaszow, Matthausen, Melk and Ebensee concentration camps before being liberated at the age of 15. His parents were both murdered in the Holocaust, but miraculously, all five siblings survived and were reunited. After immigrating to the United States, he proudly served in the Special Intelligence unit of the U.S. army in gratitude for the role played by America during the war. In the latter years of his life, he became ever committed to instilling in American youth a greater awareness of the lessons of the Holocaust. He spoke in schools, to youth groups and at community events.

The Holocaust Council works toward peace, hope and tolerance through education and dialogue. Bringing students to the Holocaust Museum is our way of helping today's youth learn lessons from the tragic events of World War II in the hope that this tragedy is never repeated to anyone, anywhere.

The trip to the Holocaust Museum is a long, but fruitful day. It begins with breakfast on the bus at 7:00am. Lunch is at the Museum Café, and dinner is pizza on the way home. A survivor accompanies the students and tells his story along the way. There is a stop at the Lincoln Memorial and the Dr. Martin Luther King monument before leaving Washington. The day is a transforming experience. Students who have participated have pledged never to be "bystanders" when faced with bullying, intolerance, bigotry and injustice.

If you are interested in participating, please contact me as soon as you can and I will be happy to discuss the details. I know that some of you have calendar constraints (testing, vacations, NJ Teachers Convention etc.), as well as submission requirements regarding lead time before a trip and may be limited to a board approved transportation list. When submitting your school for consideration, please advise us as of these constraints so we have some flexibility in our scheduling. Participation is on a first come served basis.

This opportunity is also to be considered a two part commitment. The first is the trip to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and the second is the Rubell Scholar's Symposium, a day where all the schools who have participated over the years come together in the spring for a day of peer-leadership training. It is a wonderful day and a great way to participate in character education.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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