

February 24, 2009
Centrum
P.O. Box 1158
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Dear Parents and Students,

Explorations is less than 2 weeks away and I want to make sure you feel prepared before coming to Centrum for the week. We look forward to having you here.

Centrum is located at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend- map and directions:
http://www.centrum.org/admin/2007/03/map_directions.html

Check in is between 3:30-5:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 8, at Dorm 225. You will receive your room assignment and packet with a schedule, nametag, meal ticket and keys, when you arrive at Dorm 225. Hali Johnson will greet you and our dorm counselors will be on hand to help you find your way.

On Sunday night, following the orientation for everyone in the Wheeler Theatre, students go to their main class with their teachers, and chaperones meet with Martha and the Dorm Counselors in dorm 225. We will go over the schedule, responsibilities, etc. at that time. Be sure to read the chaperone information on page 7 of the following link:
http://www.centrum.org/youth/files/MS1_RegPacket.pdf

Parents, friends and family are invited to come to Centrum on Thursday, March 12 at 7 p.m. for the final showcase. This is a wonderful opportunity to see what your students have accomplished. Catch the spirit of the week they have just experienced. The evening begins at 7 p.m. with a "Gallery Walk" upstairs in building 205. Following gallery walk, everyone walks to the Wheeler Theater for performances.

Please keep in mind that even though Friday is a short day, it is still an important part of the program. Students check out of the dorms and head home between 10:30 and 11 a.m. on Friday, March 13.

I am currently working on balancing the groups and creating a schedule. The offerings are split in half with an A schedule and a B schedule. Each day students will attend four classes, the same four all week. They will not be doing all eight different types of art. This will be explained in full the first night. We are trying to balance the number of students in each group, and to mix the school groups.

Healthy snacks are heartily encouraged; sugar and junk food discouraged. Centrum provides fruit, juice and snacks each evening in the dormitory. The food service here provides healthy food and plenty of it. What I have noticed is that kids need to pace themselves and be aware of

making good food choices throughout the week. The schedule is demanding. Eating the right foods and getting plenty of sleep are important.

We have one student who is highly allergic to peanuts attending the program. Please, if you bring snack food, avoid peanuts.

If your student has not seen the behavior contract, be sure to review it with him or her. It is pretty simple-we are trying to create a safe and inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome.

<http://www.centrum.org/admin/files/StContractNOGuardian.pdf>

(Both the behavior contract and the medical release form were included in your online registration agreement; in case this does not seem familiar.)

Last but not least- electronics..... We ask students not to bring cell phones to class. They can use their phones to call home in the dorm. Text messaging each other after “lights out” is not cool. I-Pods used to play music for the whole class are okay- earplugs in ears are not. Computers in the dorm are discouraged. Rather than a couple kids playing a computer game, we want everyone to be part of the community. We do understand if a student needs to do their homework while here, and needs a computer for their schoolwork.

THINGS TO BRING

Sheets, blankets, pillows and towels are provided. We recommend bringing an extra blanket or sleeping bag “just in case.”

ESSENTIALS (These are must haves)

Water Bottle

Warm clothes (including a warm jacket)

Rain gear

Hat (such as a baseball cap)

Comfortable clothes you can get messy in (paint, etc.) or move easily in, for dance, theater, etc.

Absolutely no jeans during African Dance!

Soap and shampoo

Day Pack

An alarm clock

Flashlight

Spiral notebook or journal

Pens, pencils and erasers

OPTIONAL

Camera or video camera

Phone-calling card or change: pay phones are available in the Commons. It is OK for students to bring cell phones, but please note that coverage is limited at Fort Worden, depending on the provider. Cell phones are not allowed during workshop time.

Quarters and soap (To do laundry)

Sun block (we’re optimistic)

Please go through this list carefully, and call if you have any questions. Providing extra care in helping your child prepare for the week will enhance his/her experience greatly. Again, students

are not allowed to use cell phones in class and are discouraged from having electronic gear (such as computers, video games) in their dorm rooms.

Thank you for your help,
Martha Worthley
Program Manager
The Young Artists Project
Centrum