



September 1, 2009

Dear SMS families,

This year during Minimester St. Margaret's School is offering a trip Egypt under the leadership of George McDowell and Natasha Kollaros. We are writing to inform you of this exciting opportunity for your daughters. Highlights of this special tour include a four day Nile River cruise, visiting ancient sites of Luxor, Valley of the Kings, Edfu and Gisa; as well as medieval and modern Cairo. Attached is the itinerary and other pertinent information. A more detailed itinerary with pictures and links is available on the St. Margaret's web site at <http://webserver.sms.org/intranet/Egypt/index.htm>.

St. Margaret's has offered a trip abroad during Minimester for years with highly qualified tour companies. We want to inform you that we are traveling with Casterbridge Tours, a company with whom we have had a wonderful relationship for the last fifteen years. Mr. McDowell has worked with Casterbridge on trips to Europe, China, Peru, and Northern Africa. At this time Casterbridge has airline seats on hold and a tour on standby in Egypt. The approximate price will be \$3385 plus \$50 which would cover transportation to and from Washington DC and tips. To book the seats and our guide we need to adhere to the following dates and deadlines:

- The completed "Enrollment Slip" from the Casterbridge brochure and the initial, *non-refundable* deposit of **\$500** is due at the latest by Tuesday, October 20, 2009 (your check can be made payable to St. Margaret's School, noting "Egypt Trip" in the memo line). Insurance is required for travel, and, if desired, please include \$70 at this deadline for Casterbridge's insurance.
- The *non-refundable* **balance** of the cost is due on November 16, 2009. This cost will include funds for the comprehensive travel insurance through Casterbridge.
You may mail or hand-deliver to St. Margaret's School c/o George McDowell.

Please note that money for daily lunches, spending money, transportation to and from Washington, DC, and tips are not included in the price.

Each student is responsible for applying for and obtaining her own passport. She must have a passport at school by December 15 so that we can have them on file before Christmas Break. If this is a problem, please let us know immediately so that we may be of assistance. We are looking forward to traveling around this area rich with history and learning with the students. Feel free to contact us with questions and interest.

Sincerely,

George McDowell
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Natasha Kollaros
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