

September 22, 2008

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are very glad to share with you this information regarding St. Margaret's School's mini-mester mission trip to the Dominican Republic. This trip will take place February 28th – March 7th, 2009. Your daughter has expressed a great interest in serving on our mission team. And we wanted to provide you with all necessary and relevant information, so that you can discuss details with your daughter and decide whether or not she will participate.

This mission trip, although an official St. Margaret's School trip will be conducted with leadership and logistical assistance from Orphanage Outreach, Inc. This non-profit organization has tremendous experience working with two orphanages in the Dominican Republic we will visit. We recommend that you visit the official web site of Orphanage Outreach, found at www.orphanage-outreach.org. Please see the website for a typical daily schedule and the weekly schedule.

After making the decision to join the trip:

You and your daughter will need to contact us for a contract, to include, completed forms, and a **deposit check for \$500.00 by October 17th, 2008** (the deposit will be applied to your daughter's trip account with completed contract). **The remaining total will be due November 14, 2008.**

Make checks payable to St. Margaret's School.

The cost will be \$1500- \$1650 depending on current flight costs

It is important to make your decision as soon as possible so that your daughter can get her passport and shots for the program, and we will be able to make the travel arrangements for the team.

Every member of our mission team must have a current passport. Please begin this process now, if your child does not have a passport. If she does please check to see that it will be current through March 7th 2009. Please send you child's current passport back to SMS when she returns from the Christmas break. We will store them as a group in a secure place until February.

Your daughter will need Typhoid, tetanus, and hepatitis A updates if necessary, and she will need to get a prescription for Malaria pills over the holiday break. The malaria pills at full cost will be \$100.00; some insurance carriers cover a portion of the cost.

Orphanage Outreach provides information on a fundraising site that has a program to raise money to offset the cost of the program. Once your deposit and contract have been received we will get this information to you.

Travel arrangements:

We are working on travel arrangements now. We will be flying out of Richmond International to Atlanta and on to Santiago, Dominican Republic. We will return through JFK and to Richmond on Saturday March 7th.

The week prior to our departure we will be doing community service works in our own community and preparing activities for our trip. Again we are thrilled with this wonderful opportunity, and we hope that your child will be able to join us. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email us at cdickins@sms.org or mrixey@sms.org

Best wishes,

Milly Rixey and Cupper Dickinson