

THOMPSON ISLAND OVERNIGHT

Information provided by Principal Lipsitz and Rachel Finkel:

Fifth graders across Lexington take overnight trips as part of their elementary experience. This trip gives our students positive experiences in working in groups where they need to problem solve and work together to accomplish their goal. At Hastings, we believe that the value of the trip is heightened by taking it as the year begins. We start the year with the overnight to have a strong, shared team building experience for the entire fifth grade.

We also work on science goals through the investigation of the Thompson Island salt marsh. The teachers continue to build on the lessons learned from Thompson Island throughout the year.

We recognize that there may be students who have not taken an overnight before. Please connect with your child's fifth grade teacher if you have specific questions or concerns. They will share their experience and tell you about how the overnight has gone for other children in past years.

Email from Rachel Finkel via your 4th grade teacher date 6/9/16:

Hi parents of rising fifth grade students,

We know some of you were unable to make it to the information session on Thompson Island, so here are some highlights. If other questions come up feel free to email any of the 5th grade teachers or to speak with them in the fall.

The dates of the trip are Tuesday, September 27 - Wednesday September 28

You will be receiving all the required forms in August with the summer letter.

Food - If your child has any food allergies please make sure you list them on the Thompson Island medical form. There is no specific place to report a special diet, so please specify in the same spot (food allergies) if you child has a special diet (i.e. kosher, gluten-free, vegetarian, etc.)

Medical Forms - In the packet you will receive over the summer, there will be medical forms from Thompson Island and Lexington Public Schools. The Thompson Island forms do not need a doctor's signature. The medication forms for LPS DO need a doctor's signature. For any medication to be given to students, INCLUDING over-the counter medicines, the nurse needs to have the medication form signed by the doctor. You may copy the form in the packet for as many medications your child needs.

Overnight - If this will be your child's first experience to sleep away from home, you may want to consider having a practice sleep over at a friend or cousin's house this summer. Let your child's 5th grade teacher know in the fall if you have concerns of possible homesickness.

Packing - A packing list will be included in the summer packet (it lists way more than your child needs). We will also send the list home again the week before the trip. Your child will be packing his/her belongings up at Thompson Island to come home, so we highly recommend that you have them pack their bag for the trip. We also ask you to go by the rule of thumb - only pack items you and your child would be ok if they were forgotten. We do everything to prevent anything from being lost, but it does happen.

Electronics - There are no electronics allowed on the trip. We make an exception for digital cameras, but we STRONGLY advise against it and suggest disposable cameras for the trip. Please note, this includes cell phones. **No student is allowed to go on this trip with a cell phone.** It is not safe for the students to be able to make phone calls that the teachers don't know about. All teachers, as well as all the staff members on Thompson Island, have phones and we can use them in the event of an emergency.

Groups- Students are split in to work groups of 10-12 students. These groups are created by the teachers and viewed by many staff members at school, to help to ensure a successful trip for all the students. Students do not have input for the members of these groups because a primary goal of this trip is to help create relationships that extend throughout the grade.

Cabins - Students give the teachers a few name of desired bunkmates. We promise that they will either be in the room or across the hall from at least one person from their list.

Students are told of both their groups and roommates once we arrive on the island.

We are looking forward to another great trip.

5th grade team

Rachel Finkel
Grade 5 Teacher
Hastings School