



## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE GRADVENTURE FIELD TRIP - UNIVERSAL STUDIOS & ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE

### FIELD TRIP EXPECTATIONS & DEADLINES

Dear Trailblazer Families,

Gradventure is an exciting and memorable culminating field trip for our 8th-grade students. This special event allows our middle school graduates to celebrate with friends while enjoying exclusive, private access to Universal Studios Florida and Universal's Islands of Adventure. The celebration features live DJs, street entertainment, and thrilling rides and attractions.

To help you prepare for this event, we have included all the important expectations, deadlines, and details in this packet.

**FIELD TRIP DATE:** *Friday, May 9, 2025* (Departure from CFMS at 1:00 PM; Approximate return to CFMS at 2:00 AM Saturday morning)

**COST:** **\$225.00** (cash, check, money order, or online payment).

- Checks and money orders should be made payable to Clearwater Fundamental Middle School.
- The cost includes park admission, transportation, one meal voucher, and a Gradventure T-shirt (required attire for the trip).
- Universal Studios Annual Passes are not accepted for this event.

**CAPACITY:** The trip is limited to the first 200 8th-grade students who reserve a spot and meet the behavioral and academic criteria.

*Students who wish to purchase a ticket after capacity is reached or the ticket purchase window has closed may add their names to a waitlist. If spots become available, they will be offered to students on the waitlist in the order they signed up.*

### TICKET SALES

Tickets will be on sale from **Tuesday, February 4th, through Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**, in the school lobby before school and online.

- Students may purchase **only one ticket** per person.
- Tickets will be distributed to students on the day of the trip (May 9th).
- Any leftover funds will be allocated for 8th-grade activities or to support disadvantaged students.

**To reserve a spot for Gradventure, students must:**

1. Purchase a ticket (cash, check, money order, or online).
2. Submit a completed and signed **Student & Parent Acknowledgement Form**.
3. Submit a completed and signed **Gradventure Field Trip Permission Slip**.

***No refunds will be issued.***



## CHAPERONES

- ☞ School staff will serve as chaperones for the trip.
- ☞ 8th-grade parents interested in volunteering to chaperone can fill out the interest form available on the Gradventure webpage from February 4–6. Approved **Level 2 district chaperones** will be contacted as needed.

## BEHAVIORAL AND ACADEMIC CRITERIA

To maintain high standards of respect, excellence, and pride, students must meet the following criteria to attend Gradventure:

- ☞ This event is **only for current CFMS 8th-grade students** who are registered at CFMS on the day of the trip.
  - ☞ Participation is limited to the first 200 students who submit payment and required forms.
1. **Behavior:** Students receiving more than two detentions or referrals on or after January 6, 2025, will have their eligibility reviewed by administration.
  2. **Academics:** A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 after the 3rd grading period is posted.
  3. **Attendance:** Students must have no more than 10 unexcused absences or tardies as of January 6, 2025.
  4. Attendance on **May 9, 2025**, is mandatory to participate.

*Students disqualified due to failure to meet these criteria may request a partial refund only if another student purchases their reserved spot.*

## EXPECTATIONS DURING GRADVENTURE FIELD TRIP

1. Students must be registered at CFMS and attend school on **May 9, 2025**, to participate.
2. The **Gradventure T-shirt** and dress code-compliant attire are required.
3. Students must meet regularly with their assigned chaperone at designated times/locations but are not required to stay with the chaperone at all times.
4. Students must travel in groups of at least two and are not allowed to travel alone.
5. Students must adhere to CFMS and Universal Studios dress codes during the trip.
6. Students are required to attend all assigned meetings with their CFMS faculty chaperone.
7. Parents must pick up their child promptly at **2:00 AM** at CFMS. Parents will be notified when buses are near downtown Tampa to allow sufficient travel time to CFMS.



## UNIVERSAL STUDIO'S GRADVENTURE DRESS CODE

All students are required to wear their unaltered Gradventure T-shirt. Below is a list of acceptable and unacceptable attire:

### ACCEPTABLE:

- GradVenture T-shirt, dresses, skirts, capris, or shorts (appropriate length).
- Casual pants (e.g., khakis, jeans).
- Comfortable shoes (e.g., tennis shoes, dress sandals with back straps, boots).
- Hats.
- Small, fanny packs, or drawstring backpacks.

### NOT ACCEPTABLE:

- Altered GradVenture shirts, clothing with holes, offensive language, sleeveless, torn, or inappropriate graphics.
- Leggings, yoga pants, or tank tops.
- Short shorts or clothing exposing excessive skin.
- Accessories such as chains, spiked collars, or studded belts.
- Bandanas or selfie sticks.
- Large backpacks.

*Note: Universal reserves the right to deny entry for dress code violations.*

## MEDICATIONS AND EMERGENCIES

- All medications, including prescription and over-the-counter, must be stored and administered by trained school personnel.
- Students carrying inhalers, EpiPens, or other medical devices must submit the required paperwork in advance.
- In case of emergencies, Universal staff or CFMS chaperones can assist students. Chaperones will have emergency contact numbers and ensure timely communication with parents if needed.

## EARLY DISMISSAL REQUESTS

Parents planning to pick up their child from Universal Studios must email **Mrs. Santangelo** ([santangelok@pcsb.org](mailto:santangelok@pcsb.org)) with proper documentation by **April 11, 2025**.

- Requests will be reviewed by CFMS administration and Universal Studios.
- Parents must sign an early release form with **Mr. Krause or Mrs. Santangelo** at the Universal Studios front gate before removing their child.



## IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

- ☞ Universal Studios staff and CFMS chaperones will assist with any issues during the trip.
- ☞ Three chaperones' contact information will be shared with Universal for emergencies.
- ☞ If any issue arises, parents will be promptly contacted.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or concerns about the trip, please contact us. Mrs. Santangelo at [Santangelok@pcsb.org](mailto:Santangelok@pcsb.org) or Mrs. Argueta at [Arguetam@pcsb.org](mailto:Arguetam@pcsb.org).