



## EIGHTH GRADE CRUISES TO FUN ON THE SPIRIT OF BALTIMORE

By Izzy Coey

The eighth grade students of Bexley Middle School in Columbus, Ohio were ecstatic to be informed that they will be taking a two and a half hour trip on a cruise boat, the Spirit of Baltimore.



This cruise included a dinner buffet, a dance floor, and guaranteed fun. Many of the kids on this trip were excited to take a break from exploring memorials, museums, and parks all throughout DC to take time to relax, have fun, and just be kids.

Students on this trip had many different opinions about the cruise boat, but there was one thing that most students agreed on, the way the boat looked. The physical appearance of The Spirit Of Baltimore gave all of the kids a strong first impression. Many of the students were very observative, saying there were plenty of tables and chairs that students could sit at to eat and talk with each other and enjoy the food and music. Lucy Mattes, an eighth grade described, "a multi level boat of medium size with plenty of room for students to dance."

Students enjoyed the cruise because they were able to dance on the dance floor or just be able to talk with their friends. Ms. Carley, a teacher that was a chaperone for this trip said, "It was great as the students got to relax with friends, dance, and enjoy themselves." Simone Rosen, an eighth grader, agrees with this and says, "I thought it was very nice. I liked the atmosphere outside. I liked seeing the skyline of DC."

Students appreciated the cruise because of all the amazing food and scenery students were able to see on top of the cruise ship. An anonymous eighth grader says, "Yeah, It was fun, it was a nice break." And when asked why, Simone Rosen says, "because there was food and because there was dancing." Overall this cruise was a great site that most if not all the students enjoyed.



# PENTAGON CITY FASHION PLACE MALL IS A MELTING POT

By Rafi Custer-Edwards

In mid-April, as part of the D.C. trip, Bexley Middle School went to Pentagon City Fashion Place Mall as one of the places to eat. Escalators led to a food court on the lower level, while everything on the upper levels was left for shopping and walking around.

Many students had the same opinions about the Pentagon City Fashion Place Mall at first glance- it was very crowded. Stella Berardi, an eighth grader, says, "When we first walked in, it was very big and busy with people on all levels of the mall." Many students disliked the amount of people, and some said that it was overwhelming. Pia Aframian, another eighth grader that was interviewed, stated, "It was really pretty and very crowded."

Students had a variety of different views about what they thought about the Pentagon City Fashion Place Mall as a stop on the DC trip. One eighth grader student said, "This site was intended for shopping be-

cause of the amount of shopping places there and for eating options and diversity of food options," says an eighth grader, Sophia Berardi. While another eighth grade student who thinks differently said, "There were a bunch of different mixes of different types of food, so I think it was a big melting pot for people," says Sophia Berardi.

Many students touring the Pentagon City Fashion Place Mall noticed that it was old and most of the escalators were out of shape, "The escalators were shaky," Pia Aframian says. However, the students learned that the mall was a safe and popular place. Students had contrasting outlooks and opinions on the appreciation of the Pentagon City Fashion Place Mall. Some claimed it was appreciated, while others disagreed. Sophia Berardi stated, "I don't think the students enjoyed this site because the food wasn't very good, and the bathrooms were hard to find. It was very loud and there were a bunch of other

schools visiting."

Pia Aframian said, "I think that they appreciated the mall. There were a bunch of food options and shopping places, although there wasn't enough time to do both."

In conclusion, students have mixed opinions on the inclusion of this site. Some students found it to be too busy and crowded while other appreciated the shopping opportunities and the many food options.





# HYATT PLACE HOTEL IS A GOOD FIT FOR LARGE GROUPS

By Skye Booth and Brayden Horn

Bexley Middle School eighth graders traveled to Washington DC this April, they stayed at the Hyatt Place Sterling/Dulles Airport-North.

The hotel was basic; it was like any hotel you have ever been to. It had two beds and one pull out couch. There was a small bathroom with a shower.

There were mixed feelings about this, as many students liked it and some did not like it. Eighth grader Zoe Lemon didn't like the drive from the hotel into D.C. "It was a far drive, and I wish it didn't take as long." Another student, Penda Dia said otherwise. "I didn't mind the drive at all, and the hotel was fine."

Students had a range of opinions about the rooms. Penda noticed that, "The hotel room looked decent. They had an iron. We had to ask for lots of towels," but with up to five people in a room, that seems natural.

Also the hotel was far from all of the historical sites they went to. However, the cost of hotels closer to the city would be much more expensive. The price of this trip would go up, and it would be harder for students to afford the trip.



Something that some noticed was that the rooms and food were not up to expectations. Gibson Price recalled, "The door was too close to the toilet, and the room did not have enough space for five people." Elliot Tague also remembered, "the bathroom had enough space, but it was weird how close the door was. The shower was good though." So, some students believed that the hotel was not up to expectations, but some believed that the rooms were perfectly acceptable.

Students lined up each morning for breakfast at the hotel to eat before going on the buses. Aden Deskin said, "it was just too early for me." He



thinks that the breakfast was too early and didn't last for long enough. There was a limited variety of food that was being served at the breakfast, but students ended up selecting their favorite food items. Eighth grader, Robert Porter, identified his favorite breakfast item, "The waffles were my favorite out of all the food because they were warm and they gave me energy for the day."

So, according to many people that we have interviewed, this hotel was a basic hotel. The location could have been better, the breakfast was okay, and overall the rooms were nice. This hotel might not be your dream hotel, but when you are traveling with two hundred of your closest friends, this hotel is a pretty good option.

# THE BARN'S EXTENSIVE BUFFET EXCITES DC STUDENTS

By Alex Hall



On Friday April 19, 2024, on our eighth grade trip to Washington DC, we stopped at the Barn for lunch. The Barn is a farm-

house style restaurant at the Barn Resort in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, that has an extensive traditional buffet.

Many students at Bexley Middle School seemed to enjoy it and found it better than some of the other places we had eaten at during our trip.

Students seemed to really appreciate the Barn because it had different food options than what we had been getting. Most of the food we had been getting was fast food and students seemed to be getting quite tired of it, so they really appreciated going to The Barn. Margret Keels said, "I appreciated it because it was different from other food courts, and it was actually good." Students

found that the food was quite good and they really seemed to appreciate it.

Students found their experience at the Barn to be pretty tasty. Jacob Kinyon added, "It was actually good. The chicken nuggets were better than McDonald's and the pizza was good. The brownie slices were good, and the cake was mid." The food was found to be very good by students at Bexley Middle School and better than the other DC options.

However, students thought the atmosphere of the Barn was nicer than any other food stop. Vivian Gockstetter thinks, "The whole restaurant itself gives off a home style vibe which is very fitting yet the lines were very crazy, but overall I thought there was a good variety of stuff and I would rate it an 8/10." Students seemed to appreciate many aspects of the Barn, and students enjoyed the food.

To conclude, students overall enjoyed their experience at the Barn and found the food and atmosphere was great. If you are ever in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and looking for something yummy to eat maybe check out the Barn!

