



SOUTH BASEBALL

Tradition Never Graduates!

To: Varsity Baseball Candidates/Parents
From: Dan Griesbaum
Re: Spring Break-2024
Date: September 20, 2023

I hope everyone is doing well and the school year is off to a great start for all players. For anyone considering trying out for baseball in 2024, I wanted to take some time to inform all of you about our spring break plans for 2024. After much consideration of our options, we have decided to return to the Jackie Robinson Spring Training Facility in Vero Beach, Florida. However, we will stay at one of their partnering hotels, The Home 2 Suites, 9060 Americana Road, Vero beach, FL 32966. Players will be housed 3 to a room, with 2 queen beds and a pullout couch.

Due to the Dugout Club's financial situation and our decision not to use bus transportation for the team, players and families will be responsible for travel plans and the costs incurred. The Dugout Club WILL contribute a large portion, most likely not all, of the costs for housing and all baseball activities. This amounts to approximately \$195 per night, per player for 5 nights, Sunday, March 24 through Thursday, March 28. Breakfast and lunch are both included in the per night cost. Families may choose to stay longer or leave Friday morning to return home. If Dugout fundraising enables us to pay the entire cost of the rooms we will certainly do so, but that cannot be guaranteed.

Players will need to arrive in Vero for practice on Sunday, March 24, late afternoon. The exact practice time will be determined at a later date. There will be no practice on Friday, March 22 to enable families who choose to drive to have enough time to do so. While at Jackie Robinson, the team will scrimmage other Michigan schools on Monday through Thursday. After Thursday, the players' obligations are completed and they may return home or stay another day or 2, as long as they are back for school and practice on Monday.

As much as we would like to cover the entire cost of this trip by Dugout Club fundraising, that is most likely impossible given our current financial situation. Just for comparison purposes, all 5 of the other MAC-RED schools are going to Florida, as well as several others that I have spoken to from other conferences. They are ALL requiring the players and families to pay **100% of the costs of their trip**. They tell the players and families to get their own transportation, as well as accommodation and meals, and the players stay with their families, (not with their teammates), at hotels of their own choosing. I wanted more of a team bonding experience, having the players all stay in the same hotel.

As far as the rooms are concerned, they all have kitchenettes, 2 queen beds, and a pullout couch. A full breakfast is included at the hotel as well as lunch at the J.R. dining room. Dinner is on our own. Parents may also reserve rooms there if they wish or choose different accommodations. We WILL, however, need help transporting players from the hotel to the J.R. facility and back.

As far as team selection is concerned, this could present a problem for any players "on the bubble." Once we have our fall meeting and it is determined who is trying out and who is not, we can have a conversation about whom that might involve, if any. However, we will not know who exactly will be chosen for the varsity squad until after tryouts, March 11-15, 2024. It is possible that we could still take any bubble players on the trip and then decide later where they best fit in for the upcoming season. All that will have to be determined at a later date.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at griesbd@gpschools.org, or my cell, 313-347-3672. I look forward to the beginning of another great season of South Baseball!

"TRADITION NEVER GRADUATES!"