

## Students See Play, Battle and Other Sights on D.C. Trip

The Gr. 8 class trip to Washington, D.C., brought out the best in Harker students as they learned about our nation's history by visiting the capitol. Student **Trevor Dutrow** said he enjoyed the trip to the historic town of Williamsburg. He said the most surprising thing



Doug Knight, all photos

was that "there were press outside of the White House 24/7, and that there really are sharpshooters on the roof."

Student **Jacob Chappell** said, for him, the best part of the trip was, "definitely the play, 'Shear Madness' but ...the best educational part of it would probably be the fake fight at Pamplin Park." Pamplin Park is a privately owned



facility that contains a high-tech museum, historical re-creations and holds a re-enactment of the critical battle that eventually allowed Union forces to take Richmond, the Confederate capitol.

One of the most interesting things Chappell learned is that there is a platform on the top of the Capitol rotunda that only congress people are allowed to go on. Chappell said the Japanese visitors who joined Harker students in Washington seemed to enjoy the trip, and their

favorite part of the trip was also the play.

"Actually I learned a lot more than I thought I would," said Chappell, "and ... I did not even realize I was learning at the time, but of course now I know. I think that the trip was the best of the middle school trips by a long shot.



visit the students and chaperones visited Williamsburg, Jamestown, Gettysburg, Virginia and D.C.



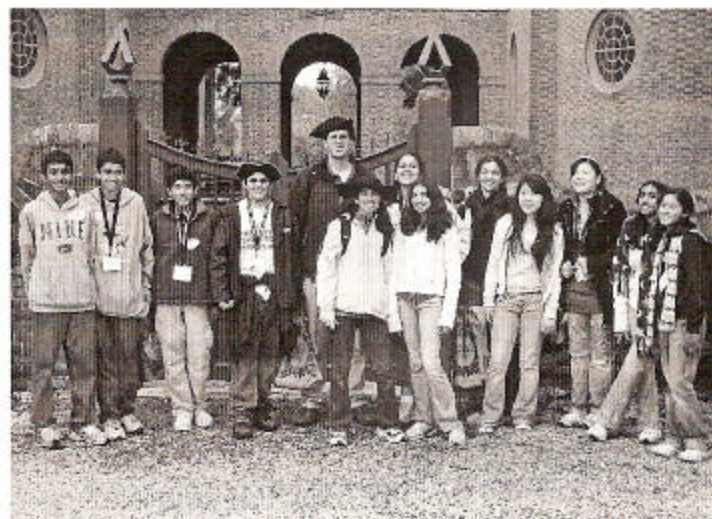
"Educational highlights included visits to Mount Vernon, the White House, the Congressional Building, the Smithsonian, Arlington Cemetery and the Lincoln, Vietnam, World War I and Jefferson



The early wake-up on the day we flew in was kind of tedious, but other than that the trip was awesome!" he said.

"The 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C., was educational, exciting and fun," said **John Zetterquist**, world studies/history department chair, who accompanied the group. "During the seven-day

memorials. Fun excursions included dinner and a dance on a boat ride down the Potomac. A great time was had by all!" Zetterquist finished.



## Technology Marches On in MS classes

MS teachers and students continue to prepare for full laptop deployment next November by utilizing technologies that fold into the bigger picture of computer use. In **Jason Pergament's** classes, students



Supplied by Jason Pergament



have been using the interactive white-

board technology eBeam to enroll in the Explore Learning Web site. eBeam picks up a teacher's work on a whiteboard and transmits it to student laptops.

Students followed Pergament's every click on laptops distributed at the beginning of class. After learning how to interact with a modular simulation on plant and animal cells, students spent the remaining 15 minutes of class beginning an assignment.

"I heard students ask wonderful questions, watched them intently investigating the plant cell simulation and diligently record responses to the questions in their simulation exploration guide," said **Lisa Diffenderfer**, assistant director of instructional technology.

"Before the class ended, Mr. Pergament asked his class, 'who thinks technology rocks?'" Diffenderfer continued. "Every student raised his/her hand. Then he asked, 'how many students want more homework assignments like this one?' Again, every student raised his/her hand. I've never seen students so excited about homework! (These are) dynamic, interactive, and engaging science lessons," finished Diffenderfer.