

Middle Level Liaisons Trip to China
April 6-14, 2010

Purposes:

1. To make connections with educators and educational organizations in China for future cooperative ventures with school districts in New York State.
2. To increase knowledge of Chinese educational systems and to appreciate the progress these systems have made in the past decade.
3. To understand and share best practices.

Itinerary:

Continental Airlines: Depart (Newark Airport) on Tuesday, April 6, at 12:10 P.M. Arrive in Beijing (next day) at 1:50 P.M.

Continental Airlines: Return on Wednesday, April 14, depart Beijing 3:45 P.M., arrive Newark 5:30 P.M. (same day).

While in China, we will spend 2 days in Beijing, 3 days in Tianjin and 2 days in Changchun. - We expect to travel from Beijing to Tianjin by high speed rail, from Tianjin to Changchun by domestic airline (tentative), and from Changchun to Beijing by domestic airline (tentative).

Invited Participants:

1. New York State Middle Level Liaisons group.
2. Employees of New York State Department of Education.
3. Dr. Shuching Chen. Dr. Chen will accompany the group during its excursions in China. He is the Director of Center for Cross Cultural Exchanges.
4. Other educators from New York State will be welcome to participate if the group does not fill from invited participants.

Costs:

All costs are approximate. They include roundtrip airfare from Newark International Airport, hotels (four and five star), some, but not all meals, all domestic travelling while in China. In addition, we will be paying for Dr. Chen's costs—airfare plus expenses in China. He will be acting as our guide and interpreter while we are in China. He is not charging us for his time. Total anticipated costs per person are \$2100.

Not included in the costs: Fees for passports and visas, some meals, souvenirs, transportation to and from Newark International Airport.

Trip Organizer:

Joel Weiss. I am currently Head of School of Kadimah School of Buffalo. I have been a middle school principal in Buffalo and Clarence, and have served as a middle level liaison for the past ten years. I took a group from my school in Clarence (twenty-three teachers) in April 2008 and spoke at an International Conference in Tianjin in 2006. I have also helped organize several student groups that traveled to China and have hosted approximately fifteen groups of educators from China. Earlier in my career I took six groups to the Soviet Union and two groups to Costa Rica.

Please note:

1. If you plan to fly on Continental Airlines to and from Newark Airport, let me know. If booked with our group international flight, it is somewhat cheaper.
2. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis. Deposits of \$100 are due by Friday, November 13. However, there are only twenty slots, so the longer you wait ...
3. All payments should be made to Kadimah School. My school will be acting as agent for the trip, so that payments are not made to me personally. Address is Kadimah School, 1085 Eggert Road, Amherst, NY 14226.
4. We needed a minimum of 10 people to get the group rate on Continental Airlines. We currently have our minimum.
5. Payments after the initial down payment of \$100:

December 11	\$1000.00
February 5	\$1000.00

Needless to say, if the total costs are less than \$2100, each participant will get a refund.

6. Passports and visas are required. Participants will get more information about them.
7. Optional insurance is available for approximately \$129.00.
8. If you have individual questions, feel free to e-mail me later today or tomorrow, e-mail me at jweiss@kadimah.org or call me at 716 836-6903.