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Fifty eighth grade students from Heritage Oak recently had the opportunity to travel east to Washington D.C. and come face-to-face with democracy in action.

First, they visited the Jamestown settlement and Jamestown Island, followed by a comprehensive tour of Williamsburg and the Governor's Palace. In Williamsburg, the students watched an educational portrayal of the collapse of the Royal Government between 1774-1776, with actors, men, women and children, in full costume acting out the various events. They also "attended" America's second-oldest college "William and Mary" for dinner and participated in a re-enactment of the British taking gun powder from the colonists. Next the group headed for Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson, and historic Michie Tavern for an authentic period luncheon of fried chicken and stewed tomatoes. Then the journey continued to George Washington's plantation, the famous Potomac River, and the Korean, Lincoln, and Vietnam Memorials. Then they headed to the Air and Space Museum and rode the elevator to the top of the Washington Monument, visited the Washington, FDR and the Marine Corps Memorial and rode the subway to Roslyn Street where they rode the longest escalator in the United States. They ended the tour with a visit to the Arlington Cemetery.

Students were in awe of all of the historic sites and the stories that accompany them. The trip was a great social and academic experience for the eighth graders.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are part of its program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 "Blue Ribbon" award. The "Blue Ribbon", our Nation's most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.