Eighteen Holyoke students will dive into the history filled area of Washington, D.C. when they visit the Nation's Capital June 4-7.

Holyoke JR/SR High social studies teachers Luke Thomas and Nic Balog will take 18 students with them this summer to visit Washington, D.C. and tour the many sights and attractions.

Thomas said he heard about the trip opportunity when he was working in Colorado Springs prior to moving to Holyoke. He was hoping to organize a trip last school year but it never materialized. Future trips will be available for eighth-graders but ninth-graders are tagging along this year as they weren't able to go last year as eighth-graders.

Thomas said he went with Smithsonian Student Tours because they make everything so easy. The chaperones won't be the "tour guides" and will be able to learn right along with the students as they will have professional tour guides.

Balog said there will be a huge variety of attractions the students get to visit. Sights include the National Mall, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, numerous memorials, Capitol Hill, National Archives, Ford's Theatre, Petersen House as well as choices of the many aspects of the Smithsonian Museum. A photo stop at the White House is also on the agenda.

"It's a jampacked four days," Thomas said.

Students going on the trip are those who have just finished U.S. History or who will begin the class next school year. "It fits in with our curriculum here really well," Balog said as they will be visiting things they talk about in the class.

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