

Overnight Trip Request: Leadership Retreat

Purpose

The Leadership Retreat is an annual program designed to:

- Foster a positive and inclusive school climate among student leaders from athletics, student government, and clubs.
- Equip students with practical leadership skills, including communication, teamwork, conflict resolution, and decision-making.
- Provide opportunities for cross-group collaboration and the development of action plans to strengthen the HBR school community.

Dates & Schedule

Date: December 5 - 6, 2026

- **Departure:** HBR HS at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 1
- **Return:** HBR HS at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 2

Location

Dickson Valley Camp and Retreat Center

8250 Finnie Rd.
Newark, IL 60541

The center provides lodging, meeting spaces, team-building activities, and meals in a safe and structured environment.

Transportation

Two school buses will provide round-trip transportation for all participants.

Participants

- **Students Attending:** 55–70 student leaders
- **Staff/Adults:** 4 high school staff members (including Michele Greene-Larsen and Nicholas Abbs)
- **Adult-to-student ratio:** approximately 1:15–1:18

Safety & Supervision

- All students will be supervised by HBR staff.
- Dickson Valley Camp has trained staff onsite, first aid available, and emergency protocols in place.

Budget & Cost

- **Camp lodging, meals, and activities:** \$105 per participant
- **Retreat T-shirt, supplies, and snack:** \$37 per participant
- **Total cost per student:** ~\$142 (\$117 for the 8 student retreat leaders)

Estimated Total: \$8,000–\$9,250 (depending on final attendance)

Fundraising

All students will have the opportunity to participate in a **David's Cookies and Cinnamon Roll fundraiser** (September 19-October 10) to reduce the overall cost of the Retreat. It is anticipated that fundraising will lower the cost by about \$50 per person. Financial assistance will be available to ensure all student leaders can attend regardless of ability to pay.

Benefits to HBR

The retreat strengthens the overall school culture by:

- Building unity across diverse student groups.
- Developing stronger student leaders who will positively influence peers.
- Providing action plans and initiatives that extend the impact of the retreat into daily school life.