

October 20, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of _____, a student who is planning to participate in the February 20 - 23, 2011 *Panim el Panim* Seminar through the PANIM Institute of Jewish Leadership and Values. It is our hope that, in view of the educational nature of the program, you will consider excusing this student's absences from school on Monday, February 21, Tuesday, February 22, and Wednesday, February 23, 2011.

PANIM brings high school students from throughout the United States to Washington, D.C. to expose them to a variety of public policy issues from differing political perspectives. Among the issues that are explored are: Human Rights, the Environment, Poverty in America, Religion and State, Abortion, Civil Liberties, Gun Control, Refugees and Sanctuary, and Capital Punishment. Students will hear from speakers who are experts on these policy issues and who work for public interest organizations, Congress and the U.S. Administration. Often, students meet with members of Congress themselves.

The seminars are designed to help students learn more about the complexities of public policy issues, how the American democratic system functions and how they can become more active and informed citizens. The program is non-partisan and involves approximately 30 hours of seminars, discussion, and educational exercises under the supervision of expert educational staff. Upon completion, students earn a certificate issued by PANIM certifying their participation in this educational experience.

Panim el Panim: High School in Washington is a valuable complement to high school courses in American History, Civics or American Government. Many of our past participants have been able to write up their experience for some type of credit with their respective social studies departments. We hope that your school would similarly permit such an arrangement.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter and invite you to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block
Director