



# *Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts*

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## *Assistant Principals*

Leo Barrett  
Corey Ferrera  
George Miller

## *Magnet Coordinator*

Patrick Marshall

*Principal*

**Dr. Susan Atherley**

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for Grand College Tours. This Fall we had fifty students participate in the Florida College Tour from Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. The tour was organized from start to finish which put my mind at ease. This tour was jammed packed with public and private Florida Colleges and Universities. Each campus experience was informative and helpful for students to find the perfect fit for post secondary education. The tour also provided extra curricular night time activities that provided the perfect outlet for student's energy. At first I was hesitant to schedule the State Capitol visit, however it proved to be one of the highlights of the tour. The students were engaged when getting the opportunity to visit both chambers of our State's Government.

In addition, every aspect of the tour including the meals was well thought out and provided a unique opportunity for students to experience what it would be like in college. Overall I have heard nothing but positive feedback from students and families from this past field trip. Currently have another group lined up to plan another Florida College tour with Grand College Tours. I highly recommend this tour group for any public or private school who is seeking a tour group that will take charge, plan, and execute every detail .

Sincerely,

Georgia Mounce and Mark Carson

Certifies High School Counselors

Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts

(561) 802-6007

# SOMERSET ACADEMY SILVER PALMS CHARTER SCHOOL



Kerri Ann Rodriguez  
Principal

Arley Blanco, Asst. Principal  
Jennifer DeSousa, Asst. Principal  
Maria Mongeotti, Asst. Principal  
Angela Nunez, Asst. Principal  
Christopher Plantada, Asst. Principal

October 27, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

During an informational college trip organized by Seth Wirshba with Grand College Tours, our students as well as chaperones had the pleasure of experiencing excellent tour guide services. The college tour consisted of three days with each days itinerary filled with different colleges to visit.

The group was impressed by the outstanding attitude demonstrated and comprehensive knowledge that Mr. Wirshba had in each of the colleges visited as well as the destinations on the way. Within the tour, we were able to experience different activities that also allowed the students to interact with one another. Some of those activities included visiting the State Capitol, bowling, bat sightseeing, and bubble ball.

Mr. Wirshba was always ready to serve the needs and extra wishes of the travelers as well as provide valuable insight information.

Through his friendly and service oriented manner, Mr. Wirshba contributed to the great success of our tour with very positive memories of all the colleges visited.

We looked forward to planning our next trip with Mr. Wirshba for the upcoming school year!!

Regards,

  
Elizabeth Aguiar – High School Counselor  
Somerset Silver Palms Charter High  
23255 SW 115 Avenue  
Homestead, FL 33032

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JUPITER CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

4/16/15

Dear Prospective Grand College Tours Client,

My name is Linda Hahn and I am the Director of Guidance at Jupiter Christian School. It is my pleasure and privilege to recommend Grand College Tours to you. I worked with Seth Wirshba for our spring 2015 "Minimester" trip. Each year, JCS students are required to take a week-long educational or service trip.

The Florida College Tour was a perfect fit for our 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade student who are college bound and serious about post-secondary education. I found Grand College Tours online and requested information. Within 24 hours, Seth had sent a full itinerary and quote for the trip cost. I was impressed by his professionalism and the brochure he sent was very well-designed. Seth was able to customize some of the tour plans to include a faith-based school our students were interested in attending. I appreciated his flexibility and willingness to work to make the tour fit our needs.

Our overnight tour was 3 days long and our students were able to see 9 schools in 3 days. The trip included the University of Central Florida, Flagler College, University of North Florida, Florida State University, University of Florida, Southeastern University, University of South Florida, University of Tampa and Florida Gulf Coast University. The plan Seth put together included opportunities to see dorms, dining halls, libraries, and recreational facilities at each campus. We were also able to do some fun activities, including going to a trampoline park in Jacksonville and visiting the Bat House at the University of Florida. Students were able to tour the schools, eat at the dining halls and have time to shop at their bookstores. There was a healthy balance of touring and fun!

We stopped at the state capitol on the second day of our tour. The students were able to see the historic capitol building in Tallahassee and the newer building behind it. Most of our students had never been to the Florida capitol building and would have not gone unless they had been on the college tour. They enjoyed getting to see the exhibits, visiting Congress and viewing Tallahassee from the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor of the new building.

Seth is very knowledgeable of the college campuses. He has been visiting campuses and going on these types of trips for over 20 years with senior citizens and students. He is well-connected and is able to improvise when there is no tour guide available. Our tour took place during spring break for many of the campuses we visited. Seth was still able to get college students and/or representatives from the admissions office to give us a tour of the most impressive parts of campus.

My students gave me very positive feedback upon returning from the tour. The main thing they said is that they were exhausted but were glad they saw all of the main colleges in Florida because they are equipped to make important decisions about their future. Visiting campuses and hearing from college students regarding the academic rigor needed to get into the top Florida colleges and universities really helped them to know what to focus on in high school. There was a clear emphasis on the importance of grades, test scores and extracurricular activities in high school woven in throughout the trip.

I would definitely plan another college tour with Seth Wirshba. He made the trip fun and educational for our students. If you have any questions about our experience, feel free to contact me via email: [lhahn@jupiterchristian.org](mailto:lhahn@jupiterchristian.org) or on my cell phone: 954-695-9504.

Kindest Regards,

Linda Hahn  
Director of Guidance  
Jupiter Christian School

700 S. Delaware Blvd. Jupiter, FL 33458 561.746.7800



# CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL

512 Spencer Drive • West Palm Beach, Florida 33409-3616  
Telephone (561) 683-6266 • Facsimile (561) 683-7307  
[www.cardinalnewman.com](http://www.cardinalnewman.com)

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

Cardinal Newman High School takes students on a college tour every year and this was the first time we hired Seth at Grand Edventures for our trip. From the start we were impressed by his excitement and detailed itinerary. He planned a three day tour visiting eight Florida colleges and universities.

Seth planned every detail of the trip and was able to run the entire thing smoothly. We had chaperones on the trip and we did not have to worry about timing or planning or the itinerary. Seth and Ryan were able to work well with the group of students and keep them engaged throughout the entire trip. They made the long drives on the bus fun and enjoyable. They were able to emphasize the importance of these visits and learning about the school but also planned fun activities for the students at night.

Seth was very flexible and made changes to our itinerary as we moved through the planning process. Due to weather we changed activities and we were able to enjoy more time on campus and see what it was like to be a student there by watching a Women's Basketball Game and bowling.

What our Newman staff was most impressed by was the knowledge Seth had for the schools and the areas. He was able to educate us and our students on not just the basics of a school but the surrounding locations and even on the drives from school to school he would let us know different tidbits and facts about our state. We had a stop at the Florida State Capitol which was a great addition to our trip!

Seth and Ryan were wonderful leaders and made this trip stress free and exciting for both the chaperones and students. We look forward to planning a trip with them next year! We highly recommend Grand Edventures.

Best wishes,

Anna Higgins

Admissions Director  
College Resource Counselor



Guidance  
Department



Guidance  
Department

February 10, 2017

Dear Prospective Florida College Tour Participant,

I recently returned from the Florida College Tour through **Grand College Tours** with 40 high school students from Wellington High School. I cannot express strongly enough what a wonderful and enlightening experience it was for all of our students, as well as for myself and the other chaperones.

Since this was the first time that Wellington High School offered this trip to our students, naturally I was a little nervous about what to expect. However, from the moment I started working with Seth, I found him to be professional, organized, and highly experienced in facilitating group tours. He provided me with beautiful marketing materials, and even came to our campus one day at lunchtime to help promote the tour to our students. He took care of all the planning of transportation, meals, hotels, and tours - all we had to do was show up and enjoy the adventure!

Visiting 9 campuses in 3 days is certainly ambitious, but Seth had the trip organized down to a science in order to maximize our time. We met with admissions officers, received guided campus tours, viewed campus housing options, ate meals with the students in university dining halls, and participated in some fun nighttime activities on campus - bowling at Florida State University, and a women's basketball game at University of Florida. As a bonus, we even got a tour of the state capitol building in Tallahassee.

The trip was a first-rate experience with a comfortable motor coach and top-notch hotel accommodations. While on the bus, Seth provided us with detailed information about the colleges and the surrounding areas. The feedback that I received from parents was that it was well worth the cost to be able to get an overview of so many colleges during one trip. Below is a quote from one student's parent:

*My son couldn't say enough great things about the trip! He learned a lot about each college he toured and made some great memories while having fun! I would definitely recommend all parents consider this. It is extremely helpful in better preparing our children on what to expect for their college choices. Between meals, bus, hotel stay and entertainment provided, we as parents would spend that and more.*

The students also raved about their experiences, some even wishing that it could have been longer with more colleges included. Here is what one student had to say:

*The trip was fun and encouraging, it gave me hope and excitement with continuing education after high school. I learned that there are many ways that you can get into college and you should shoot for the stars when it comes to your future. I also got a good feel of what college may be like and I loved it!!!! I would definitely recommend this to other students. Great experience!!!*

Overall, the trip was a huge success and I hope to offer it to our students every year. I definitely recommend using Seth and Grand College Tours to facilitate a college tour for your students. Fee free to contact me if you have any questions at [Ruth.Arden@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:Ruth.Arden@palmbeachschools.org).

Sincerely,

Ruth Arden, M.A.  
School Counselor



2101 Greenview Shores Blvd.

Wellington, Florida 33414

Phone: 561-795-4915 Fax: 561-795-4993



# Saint John Paul II

*Live By The Spirit Of Faith.* ACADEMY

June 9, 2017

To whom it may concern,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Grand College Tours to you! Saint John Paul II Academy embarked on the school's first ever College Tour with approximately 40 students. Grand College Tour offered a first rate experience for our students and chaperones. Seth handled every detail of the trip seamlessly from start to finish, allowing for an unforgettable college tour experience.

As mentioned previously, Seth truly planned every detail. Seth took care of every minute detail such as reserving the hotel rooms, coordinating with each university, and preparing specialized tours for our school! Seth was organized and professional, catering to our unique needs as a private Catholic institution. Seth's excellent time management and organizational skills allowed the students and chaperones to sit back and simply enjoy the trip!

Grand College Tours stands out among the rest due to the excellent service and attention we received throughout the entire process! Before the trip, Seth provided high quality marketing displays to place around our campus. Our students received personalized blankets and shirts to enjoy while on the trip. Miraculously, Seth managed to fit in 10 colleges during our three day tour! Seth was very conscientious of the wants and needs of our students, which prompted him to bring us to TWO extra universities that were not previously planned for the trip! Seth saw that some of our students were interested in smaller schools and catered to the needs of each specific student. His flexibility and his desire to make the trip fun are what I enjoyed most about our experience!

After each full day of touring colleges, Seth planned a fun and unique evening activity for our students. We were able to go bowling on the FSU campus in Tallahassee, in addition to playing "Top Golf" in Tampa! Seth worked tirelessly to make sure that our students received the absolute best experience possible.

All in all, I would highly recommend this company for future College Tour adventures. Our parents, students and staff were extremely pleased with the entire experience!

Sincerely,

Christina Versace Busch  
Director of School Counseling



March 7, 2018

Dear Seth,

I want to thank you for a wonderful college tour for the West Boca High School students last week! Our students had an informative and fun time for the entire time. Your knowledge of the campuses is extensive, and our students benefited from your insider-perspective.

You kept the flow going so smoothly that hitting 9 campuses seemed simple, yet everything was planned to the minute. Your organizational skills are amazing.

I've already heard from several parents whose kids attended the trip and they all agreed that it was great. Many of their kids are now thinking seriously about college for the first time. I know West Boca will continue to send kids on this tour in the future.

Thanks again.

Marjorie Licht  
West Boca High School PTSA



**Wiregrass Ranch High School**  
**2909 Mansfield Boulevard**  
**Wesley Chapel, Florida 33543**  
**(813) 346-6000 FAX: (813) 346-6091**

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**Principal – Robyn White**  
**Assistant Principal: Jesse Hope • Assistant Principal: Cindy Jack**  
**Assistant Principal: Christy Rankin • Assistant Principal: Allison Taylor**  
**Assistant Principal: ~~Diamela Vergne~~**

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June 30, 2018

RE: Grand College Tours

I cannot begin to express how valuable this experience was for our students. We were able to visit nearly every public university and some private schools, all in the span of three days! The tours were all very informative and targeted information that students really wanted to hear.

Seth is great at adding activities for the students to supplement their experiences, as well. None of our Juniors had ever been inside the State Capitol building, and this was a pleasant addition to our trip! Something, I'm sure they will not forget!

All of the students have shared with me the impact this trip had on their post-secondary planning. Many of them have added schools they were not previously considering, and have since decided to tour the campuses with their parents.

The value of this trip is immeasurable for a Florida high school Junior attempting to plan for the future. The demand to take another trip has been overwhelming and this is due, mainly, to our students sharing with others what they were able to take away from their experience.

Looking forward to future travels with this company!

Respectfully,

Jennifer Batchelor  
College/Career Specialist  
Wiregrass Ranch High School  
Wesley Chapel, FL  
[jbatchel@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jbatchel@pasco.k12.fl.us)



## **Jupiter High School Guidance Department**

**500 N. Military Trail, Jupiter, FL 33458**

**Phone: 561-744-7900 Fax: 561-744-7978**

January 19, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I have the pleasure to recommend Grand College Tours to you! Jupiter Community High School's AVID program embarked on its first ever college tour with approximately 30 students. Grand College Tours offered an enthusiastic and well balanced tour of universities that have given my students an unforgettable college tour experience.

The purpose of the AVID program is to help all students to be college ready along with showing them what and how a college education would benefit them. I have students that are so excited about going to college now. This is one of the best college tour that I have been on. The tour is well organized and on schedule. Miraculously, we visited ten colleges in three days and received a quality tour at each school.

After each day of touring, the students had an unique evening of fun activities. We went to Dave & Busters and bowling at University of Florida in their student union. The food on the trip was amazing as well. All in all, I would highly recommend the company for future trips.

Sincerely,

Raquel Abrams-Jackson, M.S.Ed

AVID Teacher/Coordinator

Jupiter Community High School

“ Success doesn't come to you, you go to it!”



# Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

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4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 • 941-371-4917 • [www.cmhs-sarasota.org](http://www.cmhs-sarasota.org)

February 12, 2019

Dear Seth,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff at Grand College Tours for an outstanding three day nine college tour of schools within the state of Florida. Our students and families are still talking about what a fantastic experience this was for our Cardinal Mooney High School sophomores and juniors and how eager they are for us to participate next year.

From the first moment that we spoke to plan and prepare for this trip you made yourself available for any inquiries and maintained a professional demeanor in guiding me through this process. You designed our flyer for the trip for advertising, made all hotel and transportation arrangements, communicated with all colleges ahead of our visit for tours and even arranged for us to eat in the campus dining facilities. Throughout the trip, you shared your knowledge of the colleges and universities that we visited and allowed us the time to visit the state capital prior to our arrival at Florida State University. Your experience and expertise provide us with the insights and exposure to areas of the many campuses which we visited that we may not have seen on a typical tour. Even with a rigorous itinerary at hand, you offered us additional stops or visits if time allowed or if we wanted to make adjustments while we were traveling. We appreciated your flexibility throughout.

While there are other companies out there that put these experiences together for schools, I can confidently say that I was extremely pleased that I selected Grand College Tours to partner with for our college tour initiatives. You made the whole experience a real success for our participants, and they are all appreciative of the opportunity this trip offered them.

We look forward to planning future trips with Grand College Tours.

Thank you,

Ann LaFemina M Ed.  
College Counselor & Academic Advisor  
Cardinal Mooney High School  
4171 Fruitvale Road  
Sarasota, Florida 34232



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Michael Cloyd • Principal

Grand College Tours,

March 11, 2019

I am writing on behalf of Sunlake High School in Pasco County. Last Fall, the Career Specialist at Mitchell High School, Michele Chamberlin, and myself decided to take a journey with our 11<sup>th</sup> graders.

What a journey it was. We had a resounding response and I just wanted to say, "Thank You, Seth!"

We took our tour March 7-9, 2019 with an excited group of students. We encouraged our students to enter this experience with an open mind and a positive attitude. We knew within the first few hours this trip would be one the students would remember for the rest of their lives.

Seth, our tour guide, was engaged the entire trip. He was inclusive of all students and encouraged the students to ask questions, experience the college environment and learn to become independent thinkers. He was also accommodating and allowed for a small addition to our schedule.

While there was a variety of colleges and universities some students asked if we could stop by FAMU. Seth was super supportive of this and while we touring, he spotted two students and invited them to speak to our group. The young lady he recruited ended up being the president of Student Council and a campus tour guide. She was very informative and super inviting. Surprising us all, he approached a group of fraternity brothers and encouraged them to perform an impromptu step routine. After the performance, one young lady shared, "This is a dream come true."

Seth's commitment to higher learning, exploring new opportunities and allowing future students to begin to make their own choices is highly encouraged on this trip.

This is a trip I will be sure to book again and I am thankful we selected Grand College Tour for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

With much enthusiasm, thank you!

Becky Black

Career Specialist

Sunlake High School, Pasco County Florida