



Board Meeting Date: February 13, 2023

TITLE: EHS Biology to Dominica

TYPE: Action

PRESENTERS: Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning; and Jenn Carter, Edina High School Assistant Principal

BACKGROUND: In accordance with Policy 538, the following international student travel experience for up to 32 Edina High School students for two weeks in July - August 2024 has received support from the school's administration and been discussed at the Teaching and Learning Board Committee Meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. Participating students will not miss any school days for this summer travel experience.

This expedition is coordinated by Operation Wallacea, a conservation organization that partners with scientists and local communities in conservation research. Students spend their first week in one of two forest camps located in the center and east of the island of Dominica and will be on site with an international team of academics who are collecting data on the biodiversity of key taxa (birds, bats, various aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate groups) and examining the impact of invasive species. The second week will be staying in student accommodation in a renovated British fort in the north of the island. The students will be completing a PADI Open Water dive training course or a Caribbean reef ecology course which consists of two lectures and two in-water activities each day. In addition, they will learn about the whale research taking place just off the coast, as well as possibly seeing Sperm Whales and other marine mammals.

In addition to providing growth opportunities across the EPS Educational Competencies, this field-based, research-oriented, student travel experience supports learning across numerous Minnesota science, social studies, and language arts standards.

COST: The anticipated inclusive cost of this experience is approximately \$3,719 per student. This price is inclusive of all transportation, accommodations, meals, transfers, on-site medical staffing, and medical and repatriation insurance. Students will be responsible for all costs. There will be need-based scholarships and other scholarships offered. There will also be extensive fundraising opportunities.

TRANSPORTATION: All students and chaperones will travel as a group from Minneapolis to Douglas-Charles Airport, Dominica, and return via a major U.S. international airline or partner.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Students and chaperones will be housed in 3-4 bedded rooms with en suite bathroom facilities or in tents of 3-4 students.

SUPERVISION: Staff members traveling with the group are Lindsey Smaka, EHS science teacher, and up to three (3) additional licensed staff, one of which will be a licensed school administrator.

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss the student travel experience. It will be brought back to the board for action on 2.13.23.

DESIRED OUTCOMES FOR THE BOARD: Review the background information provided and provide feedback on the student travel experience.

ATTACHMENT:

1. [District Wide International Travel Schedule](#)
2. [EHS Comprehensive Travel Schedule](#)
3. [Appendix III Board Policy 538 , Extended Field Trip and Travel Application Preliminary Approval](#)
4. [Insurance Information](#)
5. [EHS Extended Travel 2022 and beyond](#)