



# Proposal for OVERNIGHT or EXTENDED Student Trips

Group VanPelt's Italy Group

Proposer Position Nikki VanPelt Teacher

Destination Italy through EF Educational Tours City Venice, Florence, Rome, and Assisi State \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Departure Date Wednesday June 23, 2027 (tentative) Return Date Thursday July 1, 2027 (tentative)

Date by which response is needed ASAP Proposal Date 4/14/26

## A. Purpose of Trip

1. **What is the major place to be visited or event to be attended?** Venice: St. Mark's Square, Grand Canal, gondola ride, explore the island of Burano; Florence: Ponte Vecchio, Chiesa di Santa Croce, Gates of Paradise, and Piazza della Signoria; ½ day excursion to Pisa; Assisi: observe Renaissance art and visit Basilica of St. Francis; Rome: Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Colosseum.
2. **How is this trip related to the educational program of the District?** Students will discover Italy's rich history and culture by visiting ancient sites and experiencing traditions predating our own. The program also offers extensive opportunities to study and appreciate classical art.

## EF is an accredited institution

Like all our tours, EF's academic courses are built around the EF Method: immersive travel-based learning that helps students and educators learn more about the world, themselves, and the impact they can make. Students can also develop the essential skills that colleges and employers value most. EF is accredited by the same prestigious organizations who accredit the schools we work with across the country.



## Explore the World

Students will gain a global perspective & gain skills in:

- **Cultural awareness:** Experiencing different contexts fosters cross-cultural knowledge and skills, encouraging open-mindedness.
- **Adaptability:** Navigating unfamiliar environments teaches you how to adjust to new situations, overcome challenges, and thrive in diverse settings. This helps build curiosity and develop a growth mindset.

## Discover Themselves

Students will encounter personal development & gain skills in:

- **Self-awareness:** Building meaningful connections with others helps reveal your own biases and beliefs, fostering mindset shifts and strengthening resilience.
- **Agency:** Knowing yourself builds confidence and helps you decide who you want to be and the mark you want to make—empowering you to become a stronger advocate for your dreams.

## Make a Difference

Students will grow in action & impact and gain skills in:

- **Communication:** You connect with others more deeply through active listening, authentic connection, empathy, and appreciation—then share your own point of view.
- **Collaboration:** You develop the interpersonal skills to thrive in multicultural teams—embracing empathy and flexibility to discover better solutions, take action, and create meaningful impact.

**3. In what ways will the students benefit?** The students will gain cultural awareness as they study a different culture and the history and art associated with Italy. The students will also grow as they participate in new experiences and see the world outside themselves. The students will also gain a different perspective as they travel with a group from another school and experience the trip with other students.

## B. Students and Staff

**1. How many students will be going?** Dependent on interest

**2. What staff member will be in charge?** Nikki VanPelt

**3. What previous experience has the staff member had in conducting overnight/extended field trips?** I have been a leader for several overnight youth group missions trips, including one overseas.

**4. What other staff members will be going?** To be determined, dependent on student participation.

**5. How many chaperones, in addition to staff members, will be going?** To be determined, dependent on paying participants

**6. Chaperone names and affiliations with the students?** Parents/guardians will be allowed to travel with students, if desired.

**7. How many school days will be missed?** 0

## 8. How will teachers be notified in advance that students will be out of school? N/A

### C. Itinerary

#### 1. Where will the group be housed and fed? (list phone numbers for housing)

#### Hotels

Every hotel we partner with must meet our strict standards for safety, quality, and cleanliness. Hotels are thoroughly vetted by our team and they're regularly inspected to ensure they continue to meet these standards. It's important to note that hotels abroad may have different amenities than travelers may be accustomed to in the United States. Below are expectations & examples of hotels travelers may encounter at your proposed destination:

##### Venice region, Italy

Groups stay on the mainland in areas such as Vicenza, Padua, Mogliano Veneto, and Noale and take the ferry into Venice as tour buses cannot access the island. From the hotel, it takes an hour or less to drive to the ferry port, then it's a 25-minute ferry ride across the Venetian lagoon to St. Mark's Square. Many of the hotels outside Venice are family-owned establishments and meet the standard you'd expect from a typical European hotel, which means rooms come with private bathrooms and feature multiple single or shared double beds. Rooms may also be on the smaller side without AC, and hotels may not have elevator access.

##### Hotel Verdi

<https://hotelverdivicenza.it/>

Address: Via Lanza, 8, 36100 Vicenza VI

##### Hotel Colombo

<http://www.hotel-colombo.it/en>

Address: Piazza C. Colombo 17, 31030 San Bartolomeo di Breda di Piave, TV, Italy

##### Rome, Italy

Groups stay an hour or so from the center of Rome, near one of the airports or in areas such as Monterotondo, Nemi, Castel Gandolfo, Pomezia, Fiano Romano, Civitavecchia, and Torre Angela. Rome is a bustling and expansive city, so hotels are selected to minimize travel time between the previous

and following stops on your itinerary and can be located in commercial or residential areas. Accommodations meet the standard you'd expect from a typical European hotel, which means that rooms come with private bathrooms and feature multiple single or shared double beds. Rooms may also be on the smaller side without AC and hotels may not have elevator access.

##### Villa Valente

<https://www.villavalente.com/>

Address: Via Alberto Tulli, 71, 00123 Roma RM, Italy

##### B&B Fiumicino

<https://www.hotel-bb.com/en/hotel/roma-fiumicino-aeroporto-fiera-1>

Address: Via Giulio Romano, 79, 00054 Fiumicino RM, Italy

##### Papillo

<https://www.papillohotel.it/>

Address: Via Arola, 53, 00166 Roma RM, Italy

#### Meals

Meals are chosen to provide a more immersive cultural experience, giving students the chance to sample traditional cuisine and experience local dining customs. Below are examples of dishes travelers may encounter at your proposed destination:

##### Italy: Sample Meals

Tomato bruschetta, cannellini beans with garlic and sage lasagna, gelato. Spaghetti with pesto, pork loin with spinach and potatoes, fruit salad

On tour, breakfast is typically simple and served at the hotel, either plated or buffet-style. Lunch usually gives travelers the opportunity to explore the local cuisine on their own. Dinners will be a mix of familiar dishes and local specialties, all served from a pre-set group menu.

## 2. What will be the mode of transportation? What liability insurance does the carrier have?

### *On Tour*

EF handles everything from flights and hotels to meals and sightseeing, so the group can relax and focus on the tour experience. The group's personal, full-time Tour Director takes care of on-tour details and provides cultural insight and knowledge for students.

Everyone travels together on one tour bus and shares the same Tour Director and local guides. Groups that aren't large enough to fill an entire bus will travel with groups from other schools. With some tour and date flexibility, we are able to make travel happen for everyone at the lowest price. For more about what EF Tours are like, visit [what to expect on tour](#).

### **General liability insurance**

All Group Leaders, schools, and districts who travel with EF are added as additional insureds under our **\$50 million General Liability Policy**, whether or not the tour is considered a school event. EF's liability coverage is primary and non-contributory for covered third-party claims. The policy helps safeguard Group Leaders and their schools for covered third-party claims related to bodily injury or property damage, which includes providing a legal defense and covering legal costs for such claims. In addition, all travelers are required to sign EF's Release and Agreement which includes a release of liability of their Group Leader, school, and school board.

## 3. What arrangements have been made for dealing with emergency situations? \_

### **24/7 emergency support**

In the event that anything on tour goes wrong, EF staff are always available to help. Your Tour Director serves as your group's constant companion and first point of contact in an emergency. Our fully trained support teams are also on call 24/7, ready to assist teachers with any issues and provide the necessary resources to get things back on track. Finally our Safety and Incident Response Team—comprised of industry experts, healthcare experts, and even former FBI personnel—is ready to spring into action 365 days a year.

#### 4. If tour guides are involved, what liability insurance do they carry?

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#### **D. Finances**

- 1. What is the estimated total cost AND cost per student?** Approximately \$4,749 per student/\$5,579 per adult. Total cost will depend on the number of students/adults traveling. Cost includes all travel expenses, main meals, and guided activities.
- 2. What is the source of funds?** Students/adults will pay their own way. Fundraisers will take place for those with financial hardships.
- 3. How will the funds be collected and safeguarded?** EF Tours takes responsibility for collecting funds, setting up payment plans, and safeguarding funds that are turned in to them. They have a policy for cancellations or travel issues that families will sign upon agreeing to go on the trip.
- 4. How will any shortfall be made up or excess funds used?** Fundraisers will help with any financial shortfalls. The trip is "self-funded", so there will be no excess funds.
- 5. What provision has been made for students who are financially unable to pay any necessary costs?** EF Tours has a list of successful fundraisers and will help organize fundraisers if needed.

**E. Communications**

1. How will you communicate to parents prior to, during and after the trip? In person meetings, emails, and WhatsApp (does not require an international plan to communicate)

Nikki VanPelt April 16, 2026  
Signature of the Requestor Date

Trip approved  Trip not approved

Bethie Stone 4/16/26  
Principal Date

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Board of Education Date