



DEFINING EXCELLENCE

Board Meeting Date: 1/8/2024

Title: Italy 3/28/2025 - International Travel Request - High School Band - Italy - Paul Kile

Type: Discussion

Presenters: Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning; Jenn Carter, Edina High School Assistant Principal; and Paul Kile, EHS Band Teacher

Background: In accordance with Policy 538, the following international student travel experience for up to 90 Edina High School Students students for 8 days in 3/28/2025 - 4/5/2025 has received support from the school's administration. Participating students will miss 1 school day for this travel experience.

This experience is coordinated by GrandTours tour company, an organization that designs tours to Italy (Sorrento, Isle of Capri, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, Rome) and all of Central Europe. Jeff Goldsmith is the owner and President of GrandTours. He is a former Music Educator of 15-years and remains active in the Twin Cities music community as a clinician and adjudicator. He holds a Masters Degree in Music Education from the University of Minnesota and has established a successful career in group travel planning since 2000. Jeff served as the Director of Education and Performing Arts Travel at Dayton's, Marshall Field's, and Macy's Travel. He understands the unique touring needs of both instrumental and vocal music ensembles and will help design a custom concert tour that exceeds expectations. GrandTours values:

- Design custom group travel programs in a spirit of adventure and discovery
- Inspire travelers to see an amazing world through new eyes
- Let passion, creativity, flexibility and attention to detail define our work
- Value satisfied travelers as the most important asset to GrandTours
- Create simplicity in the tour planning process and travel experience
- Operate with complete financial integrity and provide tours of exceptional value
- Bring every traveler home safely with memories to last a lifetime!

Summary of the Travel Experience: (itinerary attached below)

On their Grand Tour to Italy members of the Edina Concert Band will enjoy three exciting concert opportunities:

- a student performance exchange with students from a music conservatory
- world-class scenery
- spectacular sightseeing

- Italian culture

The students will fly into Rome and travel along the Bay of Naples to visit Sorrento, The Isle of Capri and spectacular Amalfi Coast. They will visit excavations at ancient Pompeii, buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, make a day trip to the classic Umbrian Hill Town of Orvieto and conclude the tour in Rome to see the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Piazza Navona, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Vatican museums and remarkable St. Peter's Basilica.

The performance schedule will be the following:

- 1st Concert- Sunday, March 30 in Sorrento (in Sorrento Cathedral or Piazza Veniero)
- 2nd Concert- Wednesday, April 2 in Rome (this will be a student exchange concert with the students of the Rome Youth Conservatory. They will perform for us, we will perform for them and then we will combine on a piece or two for a collaborative musical exchange)
- The 3rd Concert will be Thursday, April 3 at the St Ignazio di Loyala

Overview of Standards that will be taught on the Travel Experience: The Edina Concert Band has received a unique invitation from the St. Ignazio performance series to perform in Italy. The performances align with the vision-mission of the Edina Band program and the MN State Music Standards of 'performing for others' at the highest level possible. The band students will also engage in a student exchange to align with the band's vision-mission of community and connection and serving as ambassadors for the band program, school district, city and state.

Cost: The price of this experience is \$3995 per student and is all inclusive including all meals, travel, accommodations, and admissions for various events.

Transportation: Delta/KLM airlines and motor coaches

Accommodations: 4 star hotel accommodations in Sorrento and Rome

Supervision: Superintendent Dr. Stacie Stanley has agreed to accompany the band on tour. In addition, we will have a 1:10 student to adult ratio with 4 band staff and 5 band parents serving as chaperones.

Recommendation: Review the international travel experience for discussion. Action will occur at the 2.12.24 Board Meeting.

Desired Outcomes for the Board: Review the background information provided and provide feedback on the student travel experience.

Attachments:

1. Appendix III Board Policy 538 , [Extended Field Trip and Travel Application Preliminary Approval](#)
2. [Grand Tours Itinerary](#)
3. [COI Liability Insurance](#), [Italy Tour Ins. - Example](#)
4. [Fundraising Plan](#)