Title: Montreal/Quebec - 6/2027 - International Travel Request - Natalie Godin - Valley View Middle School

Type: Discussion

Presenters: Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning, Patrick Bass, Valley View School Principal and Natalie Godin, VVMS Extended French Teacher

Background: In accordance with Policy 538, the following international student travel experience for up to 60 Edina Middle School students for 6 days during the first week in June 2027 has received support from the school's administration. Participating students will miss 0 school days for this travel experience.

This experience is coordinated by EF Explore America tour company. For over 55 years, EF has been working to keep minds and the world wide open. EF design's tours to help educators teach, and so students can learn more about tolerance, other perspectives, and themselves. Our company's roots are in language learning and cultural exchange, and over time, EF's mission to provide immersive, life-changing education has remained the same. **[EF Itinerary 6 Day/5 Nights:Tour Highlights](#)**

Overview of Standards that will be taught on the Travel Experience: According to [Minnesota Department of Education World Languages Standard](#), the goal of world languages education is to develop multilingual leaders who are linguistically and culturally competent to communicate, work and collaborate effectively with people of diverse backgrounds in the global community.

Communicating in the language of others and learning about cultures that are different from your own are essential to gain deeper understanding of new perspectives, develop intercultural competencies, increase awareness of self, engage in self-reflection, and cultivate curiosity and empathy that lead to increased capacity to live and work with people who are different from your own. These characteristics help sustain a mindset of a life-long learner and will help one lead a meaningful life as a member of the global community in the 21st century.

Cost: The anticipated inclusive cost of this experience is approximately $3,080 per student. This price is inclusive of all transportation, accommodations, meals, transfers, medical and

repatriation insurance. Students will be responsible for all costs and opportunities for scholarships will be available.

Fundraising Plan: This is an international travel experience that students start hearing about at the beginning of 7th grade, ensuring families have time to start saving money. In addition:
- [EF Travels offers $500 scholarships for essay](#) submission before December 15
- Extended French Booster Club supports additional scholarship opportunities

Transportation:
- Plane (to and from Montreal)
- Private Bus during the whole trip in Montreal/ Quebec

Accommodations:
- Hotel in Montreal (students in a Quad room / chaperone in double or single room)
- Hotel in Quebec (students in a Quad room / chaperone in double or single room)

Administrative Supervision: Staff members traveling with the group are administrator Patrick Bass, and licensed staff members Natalie Godin, Chrystel Klein, Myraim Zaghouani, Melissa Norwood and licensed school nurse.

Medical Safety Plan: We will have a school nurse join us on our travel experience with full knowledge of the medical needs of students present. They will also have a medical folder with all pertinent information provided by families about allergies, dietary needs, and prescription medicines.

Physical Safety Plan: We will have a 1:10 chaperone ratio and work with EF to ensure safety logistics. We will also have security guards in our hotel at night to ensure that students are making responsible decisions.

Recommendation: Review the international travel request for discussion.

Desired Outcomes from the Board: Review the report, have questions prepared, and provide feedback on the key information presented.

Attachments:

1. [Appendix III Board Policy 538](#), [Extended Field Trip and Travel Application Preliminary Approval](#)
2. [Trip Details](#)
3. [Safety and Health](#)
4. [Insurance](#)