



**Board Meeting Date: February 13, 2023**

**TITLE:** EHS Orchestra Tour 2024 St. Thomas

**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 between 30-50 Edina High School students for one week in March 2024 (over spring break) 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 spring break travel experience.

The purpose of this trip is to complete a long standing exchange with the Rising Stars Steel Drum orchestra (Edina, fall 2019) as well as creating a new relationship with the teachers and students on the island of St. Thomas.

The orchestra travels every other calendar year, leaving time and space to plan an enriching and deep learning experience. This tour is curated to line up with the EPS Competencies.

- ***Globally connected students through the craft of music making***
- ***Responsibility as ambassadors of Edina Public Schools***
- ***Motivated by experiencing music from another cultures interpretation***
- ***Well Rounded by traveling outside of our community to experience a new community***
- ***Innovative Thinker by approaching a concert from a new engaging experience***

The demand of the tour company requires a vendor that is familiar with traveling with string instrument, has previous connections on the island to rent music equipment (larger instruments, stands, chairs, drum sets), and is able to be our island liaison to help set up school performance visits and musical exchanges with the high school students of the USVI.

**COST:** The anticipated inclusive cost of this experience is approximately \$3,500-\$3,800 per student. This price is inclusive of all transportation, accommodations, meals, transfers, instrument rentals, and trip insurance, as well as licensed staff and administrator travel costs. Students will be responsible for all costs. There will be need-based scholarships and other

scholarships offered. Two fundraising efforts have already been established yearly in the fall and spring for any student interested in raising funds for the trip.

**TRANSPORTATION:** All students and chaperones will travel as a group from Minneapolis to St. Thomas or make a connecting flight inside the continental US and will return via a major U.S. international airline or partner.

**ACCOMODATIONS:** Students (quad occupancy) and chaperones will be housed in hotel lodging with quality amenities.

**SUPERVISION:** Staff members traveling with the group are Nick Gaudette (EHS orchestra teacher and organizer), EHS PLTW, Science / Math teacher Shannon Seaver, a licensed school administrator, and up to 6 parent chaperones.

**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 coverage](#)
5. [St. Thomas Itinerary](#)
6. [EHS Extended Travel 2022 and beyond](#)