

TO: Members of the Vicksburg School Board  
FROM: Troy Smith, High School Media Teacher  
RE: Summer 2026 trip to Austria, Germany, Switzerland  
DATE: October 11, 2026

In order to expand our horizons of culture and filmmaking, I am proposing a trip to Austria, Germany, Switzerland (AGS) Jun 16-25, 2026

### Trip Details

I have been working with Education First Tours, the oldest and largest educational travel company. They guarantee the lowest price, have insurance for any tour problems, offer 24-hour English-speaking tour guides, and include everything except lunches and tips. This will be my third group trip with them. For every six students that go, they include one chaperone to go at no expense. We will be holding an informational meeting on Oct. 21 at 6:00 pm in room 30 at the High School. This trip is also open to any student in the school as well as to my students from my Kalamazoo Central HS Film class.

### Itinerary

#### **Day 1 - Fly overnight to Austria**

#### **Day 2 - Vienna**

Meet your Tour Director at the airport

#### **Day 3 - Vienna**

Visit Schönbrunn Palace

Take a guided tour of Vienna

With your expert local guide you will see:

- Ringstrasse
- Parliament building
- Neues Rathaus
- Hofburg Palace

Enjoy time to explore on your own

Enjoy a Wiener schnitzel dinner

Enjoy an evening of classical music

#### **Day 4 - Vienna • Salzburg • Munich**

Travel via Salzburg to Munich

Orient yourself to the city of Salzburg with your Tour Director

Salzburg Sound of Music Tour

You might recognize Salzburg as the backdrop of "The Sound of Music." On guided tour around the city, you'll see famous landmarks from the film, including the Mirabell Gardens, and the ornate fountain.

#### **Day 5 - Munich**

Take a guided tour of Munich

With your expert local guide you will see:

- Olympic Stadium
- Residenz
- Marienplatz

Take a walking tour of Munich

With your Tour Director you will see:

- Munich Cathedral
- New Town Hall
- Hofbräuhaus

Take an excursion to Dachau

Visit the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

#### **Day 6 - Munich • Tyrol region**

Travel via Neuschwanstein to the Tyrol region

Take an excursion to Linderhof

Visit Linderhof Palace

Stop for a photo as you catch a glimpse of Neuschwanstein Castle

#### **Day 7 - Tyrol region • Liechtenstein • Lucerne**

Travel via Liechtenstein to Lucerne

#### **Day 8 - Lucerne**

Take a cruise on Lake Lucerne

Take a walking tour of Lucerne

With your Tour Director you will see:

- Lion Monument
- Kapellbrücke
- Lake Lucerne

Ride to the top of a Swiss mountain

Swiss fondue evening

Savor a taste of Swiss culture as you enjoy a fondue meal, the country's national dish that consists of delicious melted cheese and a lot of bread. Then, experience a bit of Swiss tradition in the form of yodeling, folk dances, and Alpine horns. (Just remember to pack your appetite.)

#### **Day 9 - Lucerne • Heidelberg**

Travel via Freiburg to Heidelberg

Explore Freiburg on your own

Visit Heidelberg Castle and its famous wine barrel

Take a walking tour of Heidelberg

#### **Depart for home**

#### Rationale

In addition to immersing in the AGS cultures and gaining amazing life experiences, we will be observing the Sound of Music cinema sites. This is an amazing experience for my film students.

#### Cost and Payment

The student cost is \$4942, excluding spending money, passport fees, etc. We may do some fundraising, and students will be directed to apply for grants. Payment plans are available. Additional adults will cost \$5762.

This is an amazing opportunity for the students to experience, and student/parent interest has been strong. I ask the Board of Education to support this opportunity for Vicksburg students to travel and study abroad in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland.

Thank you,

Troy Smith  
Media Arts Teacher  
Vicksburg High School