



Board Action Required

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To: Coppell ISD Board of Trustees  
From: Emily McCoy  
Date: January 14, 2013  
cc: Dr. Jeff Turner, Mike Jasso

**Re: Proposed November, 2013 CHS IB LOTE Trip to Costa Rica**

The CHS IB LOTE team is working on an opportunity for our advanced language learners. We would really like to offer them a language experience outside of our community. We would like to take them to Monteverde, Costa Rica for a week. We are looking at doing this during the school year (November 3-9, 2013).

The participants are carefully paired up and live with pre-screened Costa Rican families. The families are instructed to speak Spanish and are experienced with housing language students. They are walked to and from school daily by the accompanying sponsors. In the afternoons, the learners would go on a coffee plantation tour, a farming tour, a rainforest tour, and a canopy tour (all of these done in Spanish). The activity on the afternoon of the last day of class (Friday) will be some type of community service, possibly painting, picking up trash, or reading to young children. In the mornings, the learners would take 4 hours of intensive language courses after being assessed (written and orally) by their Costa Rican teachers. They would then be assigned to a specific class based on their current language ability. The participants follow a very strict daily schedule.

This experience would provide our IB Spanish learners with authentic exposure and practice with the language, as well as a deeper understanding of Latin American culture. Learners will engage in real-life application of the IB Spanish curriculum.

We would depart for Monteverde on Sunday, November 3 and would return on Saturday, November 9. Participants would miss 5 days of school, November 4-8. Two sponsors, Emily McCoy and Paul Sanford, as well as an administrator, would travel with the participants and would help to supervise them during meals, activities, and classes. The sponsors will also conduct random check-ins while participants are with their host families. The participants will be traveling by air to/from Costa Rica and will travel by private bus once in Costa Rica. The cost will be \$1795 plus airfare, all of which will be provided by the students. Participants will pay SPI directly and will book their own airfare on pre-determined flights.

According to Board Policy FMG (Local), "International trips shall require the approval of the principal, the assistant superintendent for business and support services, the Superintendent, and the Board."

**Recommendation: That the Coppell ISD Board of Trustees, as required by Board Policy FMG (Local), approve the CHS IB LOTE trip to Monteverde, Costa Rica from November 3, 2013 through November 9, 2013.**