



To: Coppel ISD Board of Trustees
From: Carolyn Daniel
Date: September 5, 2017
cc: Brad Hunt, Steffany Batik

Re: Proposed March, 2018 New Tech High @ Coppel LOTE Trip to Costa Rica

The NTH@C 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 Playa Flamingo, Costa Rica for a week. We are planning this for Spring Break (March 10-17) 2018.

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. In the mornings, the learners have the option of: visiting the Llanos del Cortez waterfall, visiting the Santa Elena Cloud Forest, doing local volunteer service, seeing the artisanal pottery of Guaitil, visiting Rincón de la Vieja National Park. These excursions could include kayaking, zip-lining, surfing, horseback riding, snorkeling or wildlife hikes. In the afternoons, they will attend school where they would take intensive language courses after being assessed (written and orally) by their Spanish teachers. They will 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 Spanish learners with authentic exposure and practice with the language, as well as a deeper understanding of Costa Rican culture. Learners will engage in real-life application of the Spanish curriculum.

We would depart for Liberia on Saturday, March 10th, and would return on Saturday, March 17th. Participants would not miss any days of school as those dates correspond with Coppel ISD's Spring Break. Sponsors and administrators, 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 Spain and will travel by private bus once in Spain. The cost will be \$2,195 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 Coppel ISD Board of Trustees, as required by Board Policy FMG (Local), approve the NTH@C LOTE trip to Playa Flamingo, Costa Rica from March 10, 2018 through March 17, 2018.