

# iPanamá!

April 22, 2022

Dear School Board Members,

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic I was forced to postpone and ultimately cancel the trip to Panamá that was originally scheduled for 2020. I have started with a new group of students to do the same trip in June, 2023. I pushed it back to this date in order to allow the travel industry to bounce back from the pandemic and give our students and families more time to gather funds and make a wise decision for the potential travel experience.

The trip will be for any students in grades 10-12. It will be an educational and cultural experience. This will be the seventh student trip I have led, and the first time to Panamá. I am very excited to be offering a culturally focused trip in which we will be able to learn about the people, their perspectives, and also about the significance of the canal. The trip is through an educational tour company called EF tours. Information about the tour company and our tour can be found at the following link: [www.eftours.com/2485155fx](http://www.eftours.com/2485155fx)

EF tours is an accredited tour company that has been providing travel opportunities for students for over 50 years. The following is a quote from EF tours:

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The EF team supports its travelers before, during and even after their tour. Our tour consultants work with teachers to plan the perfect tour for their groups, one that enhances what they are teaching in the classroom. The tour consultants guide the teachers through every step of the planning process and coordinating all of the travel logistics, from arranging flights and hotels to organizing special excursions. And, our Customer Service Department is also available to answer questions and concerns from students and their parents...

On tour, every student group is accompanied 24 hours a day by an EF Tour Director. Tour directors take care of all logistical details on tour—including making sure the group is always in the right place at the right time, assisting with hotel check-in, leading some of the sightseeing tours and keeping the tour running smoothly from start to finish. Of course, our tour directors are professionally trained to handle any emergencies that may arise on tour.

Quoted from EF tours 'Information for School Boards and Administrators'

Included in the tour: round-trip flights, motorcoach transportation in Panama, hotel accommodations, breakfast and dinner daily with lunch provided on 3 days, entrance fees, full-time tour director, expert local guides, Global Travel Protection Plan, 24-hour Emergency Service, and EF's [Peace of Mind Program](#). The total cost of the trip is \$3,270. Upon enrollment, students must provide a \$95 deposit to secure their spot, which is applied toward the program fee. Families can choose between two payment plan options. The first is the automatic payment plan in which payments are automatically deducted from a bank account. Families can choose their payment frequency: monthly or bi-weekly. Payments will be scheduled until 30 days prior to departure day. The other option is the manual payment plan where families make payments in less frequent installments, this option requires a deposit of \$260 (\$95 + Global Travel Protection Plan). I will offer fundraising opportunities at the students' request.

I look forward to providing students of Crosby-Ironton with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage in another culture and expand their understanding of the world through experiential learning.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Jessica Dietz