

**October 22, 2018**

**Dear School Board of Vicksburg Community Schools,**

We are writing you in regards to a trip for Spanish students to Costa Rica in June of 2019. The trip is offered to those students who have completed at least two years of Spanish. There are 14 students enrolled in the trip. The tentative dates for the trip are June 19-July 2. These dates are subject to change at this point, but will only fluctuate one day on either side of the proposed dates. This trip's itinerary and mission are similar to previous year's trips that have been taken abroad. The company organizing the trip is called Xperitas (formerly ISE). This is a reputable student travel and tour company and we have used this company in the past with much success. The tour includes a local guide who is at our disposal the entire time while we are in the country. The guide personalizes the trip to fit the needs of our students to ensure that each student walks away with a memorable and meaningful experience.

Costa Rica is an incredibly safe country that features beautiful rainforests, volcanos, hot springs, and beaches—all of which our students will have the opportunity to experience while using Spanish in a real world setting. This trip offers an opportunity for personal growth by challenging the students to explore a new culture while practicing their second language skills.

This particular trip includes a six day homestay. All host families are volunteers who have been given extensive background checks by Xperitas. Xperitas works closely with the families to maximize the experience each student will have while at their home stay. Many of the families have hosted international students for many years and look forward to the opportunity to share their way of life with American students. This portion of the trip is always the most memorable for students.

Similar trips to Costa Rica have been taken previously through the same company, and the take away from these trips for the students has been irreplaceable. The cost for this 14 day trip is \$3,199 and includes nearly all of the expenses that come with traveling abroad. This cost is paid for entirely by their students and their families. Please see the attached itinerary for more specific details regarding the cities we will be visiting and the activities we will do.

Thank you for your consideration in the approval of this trip. It is sure to be an enriching and meaningful experience for our Vicksburg High School students

Sincerely,

Allie Lamers, Jennifer Rodas, Mary Zemlick  
6-12 Spanish Department