

Denton Independent School District Request for Travel Out-of-Country Non State- Sanctioned Activities*

I. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

Campus Ryan High School Date Submitted 5/27/2022 School Organization Choir
 Activity Sponsor David Rives Name and Date of Event Spain/Portugal Trip March 2023

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED TRAVEL

Destination(s)** Spain/Portugal
 Description of Activities or Events (be specific) Three Performances TBD
St. George Castle, Mosteiro de Batalha, Biblioteca Universidade de Coimbra, Royal Palace in Madrid, Prado Museum, a Flemenco dinner and show
 Dates of Travel March 9-18, 2023 Mode of Travel Air
 Number of Student Participants 40 Number of Adult Sponsors 15 Chaperones 13 Staff 2
 Educational Purposes and Value (be specific) Performance oportunitites and cultural/history experiences

** Attach copy of proposed itinerary and any supporting documentation

III. SOURCE OF FUNDING

| <u>Source</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Title 1 | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students (personal) | \$3189 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising Activities*** | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | _____ |
| Total Cost of Activity | \$3189 |
| Estimated Cost/Student | \$3189 |

***Name and Description of Fund Raising Activities (if required)

N/A

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW / APPROVAL

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| Principal | <u>Vernon Reeves</u> | <u>Vernon Reeves</u> <small>Digitally signed by Vernon Reeves Date: 2022.06.07 10:30:07 -05'00'</small> | DATE OF APPROVAL |
| School Operations | _____ NAME | <u>Dr. Gwendolyn M. Perkins</u> <small>Digitally signed by Dr. Gwendolyn M. Perkins Date: 2022.06.08 10:08:02 -05'00'</small> | <u>06/08/2022</u> |
| Superintendent | _____ NAME | SIGNATURE | DATE OF APPROVAL |
| Board President | _____ NAME | SIGNATURE | DATE OF APPROVAL |

*Reference Policy FMG (L)

Ryan High School Choir

Performance tour to Spain and Portugal

Itinerary March 9 – March 18, 2023

May 20, 2022

Day 1 Thursday, March 9 Depart for Lisbon (overnight flight)

Departing Ryan High School for your flight to either Lisbon or Madrid (we would reverse the entire itinerary if we get better flights to Madrid), we arrive DFW to check in for our departure for Lisbon to be determined, an overnight flight with meal service en route.

Day 2 Friday, March 10 Arrive Lisbon

On arrival at the Lisbon airport at 10:00 AM, we process through passport control and pick up our luggage to be met by our USIT tour conductor and guides. After boarding our coaches, we drive the short distance to the heart of Lisbon, where we take a walk through the medieval Alfama district, a village within the city still made up of narrow streets, tiny squares, churches, and whitewashed houses. Then, we go up to St. George's Castle, dating from the 6th century, overlooking the city (adm. incl.). There are many churches in Lisbon. Foremost among them are the cathedral, the oldest building in Lisbon, dating from 1150 AD, which we'll see on our walk. Nearby is our hotel, and we'll proceed to check in. Dinner is provided at the hotel shortly after check-in. Hotel and dinner: Hotel Mundial, Praça Martim Moniz 2, 1100-341 Lisbon Phone: (+351) 218 842 000

Day 3 Saturday, March 11 Tour Lisbon Area

After a late breakfast at the hotel, we start by driving north of Lisbon to the royal town of Sintra, hidden in the lush mountain forests. The Romans made it a place of cult moon worship and named it "Cynthia" after the goddess of the moon. The Romans were followed by the Moors, who fell in love with the lush vegetation, and built a hilltop castle, a palace, and several fountains around the town. Later it became the summer residence of the Portuguese royal family and attracted many wealthy aristocrats who built huge mansions and villas. We enjoy a tour through the castle and have time for lunch and shopping in the village. We come back down along the Atlantic coast to the lighthouse at Cabo Roca with its amazing views of the pounding Atlantic surf. After a brief stop there, we continue down the coast to the coastal town of Cascais, with its beautiful beaches, to enjoy some time near the ocean. Hotel and dinner: Hotel Mundial

Day 4 Sunday, March 12 Tour Lisbon Area

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart the hotel to see more sights in Lisbon. We drive along the waterfront and stop to visit the amazing Jeronimos Monastery. This monastery, dedicated to St. Jerome, is the most impressive symbol of Portugal's power and wealth during the Age of Discovery. King Manuel I built it in 1502 on the site of a hermitage founded by Prince Henry the Navigator. This the place Vasco da Gama and his crew spent their last night in prayer before leaving for India. We also go by the Belém Tower and the Discoveries Monument and hear a little more about Portuguese history. There are other sights to enjoy before returning to the hotel for lunch on our own. Then we prepare for our first concert at a venue to be chosen. We return to the hotel for some free time and dinner is provided at the hotel or a nearby restaurant. Hotel: Hotel Mundial

Day 5 Monday, March 13 Depart Lisbon for Porto

After an early breakfast at the hotel, we check out and board the coach for our trip north to the coastal city of Porto. On the way, we stop to visit to visit the Batalha Monastery (Mosteiro da Batalha), where we informally sing in this amazing gothic sanctuary. Batalha was erected in commemoration of the 1385 Battle of Aljubarrota to thank the Virgin Mary for the Portuguese victory over the Castilians. It took more than a century to build. Construction started in 1386 and was completed in 1517. It is one of the most important Gothic sites in Portugal. We leave Batalha mid-morning for Coimbra. Together we visit University Library and the Cathedral. Inside the

library, there are three great rooms divided by decorated arches. The walls are covered by two-storied shelves in gilded or painted exotic woods, and the ceilings are decorated with paintings. The library contains about 250,000 volumes. After lunch on our own in Coimbra, we continue north on our journey to the coastal city of Porto. We check into our hotel for two nights. Dinner is provided at the hotel, and the evening is at leisure. Hotel and dinner: HF Tuela Hotel, Rua Arquitecto Marques da Silva 200, 4150-365 Porto, Portugal; Phone as dialed from the US: 011 351 22 600 4747

Day 6 Tuesday, March 14 Full Day Visit Porto

After breakfast at the hotel, we enjoy a panoramic tour of the city, including visits to St. Francis Church, one of the famous Baroque Golden Churches. We plan to sing a concert in this national monument at 6:00 PM. Next to St. Francis Church is the Commercial Association Palace (Palácio da Bolsa), a major neoclassical landmark, rich in artwork in the interior. Our final visit this morning is the Cathedral of Porto, an austere, fortress-like cathedral where King John I married the English Princess Philippa of Lancaster in the 14th century, and where their son, Prince Henry the Navigator, was baptized. While the building has its origins in the 12th century, it has undergone many alterations over time, and we'll hear the reasons why from our guide. After lunch on our own, we enjoy a one-hour cruise on the Douro River to see the city from the water, including the city's six bridges. We return to the hotel for some free time and dinner is provided at the hotel or a nearby restaurant. Hotel: HF Tuela Hotel

Day 7 Wednesday, March 15 Depart for Visit to Salamanca

After breakfast, we check out early from our hotel and depart for Salamanca at 8:00 AM in order to arrive by lunchtime. On arrival, we enjoy lunch on our own before we start our touring. We see the historic Plaza Major, where we hear about the major historic events of Salamanca, followed by visits to the Old Cathedral and the New Cathedral. The interior architecture and decorations of the New Cathedral are rich and elegant, and we see three of the chapels: The Golden Chapel, the Chapel of the Veil and the Chapel of Saint Roque. Then we have some free time to explore the shopping district and the Plaza Major. Later, dinner is provided at the hotel. Hotel and dinner: Abba Fonseca Hotel Salamanca, Plaza de San Blas, 2, 37007 Salamanca; Phone as dialed from the US: 011 34 923-01-10-10

Day 8 Thursday, March 16 Depart for Madrid, Afternoon Visit

After breakfast, we depart Salamanca for Madrid, a morning's drive. Madrid is the capital of Spain, located in the heart of the peninsula and right in the center of the Castilian plain, 1800 feet above sea level. With a population of over three million, it's a cosmopolitan city, a business center, and headquarters for the Spanish Parliament and is home to the Spanish Royal Family. We start with a panoramic tour of the city, including lunch on our own, followed by a walking tour beginning at the Plaza Major. The most striking building in the Plaza Mayor is the Casa de la Panadería (Bakery House), with its colorful fresco-adorned façade. On the opposite side of the square is the Casa de la Carnicería. This former butcher shop now houses Municipal offices. Until the last century, the Plaza Mayor was used as a marketplace on weekdays and was the scene of popular events from bullfights to public announcement of sentences during the Inquisition, religious processions, public executions and dance and theater festivals. We go on to walk through the area, seeing the Palacio de Santa Cruz, Mercado de San Miguel, and the Plaza de la Villa. Inaugurated in 1620, this large rectangular, stone-paved plaza with its ground floor arcades underwent its last remodeling in 1853 by Juan de Villanueva. We end our walk at the Plaza del Sol, a pedestrian shopping area. Then at 6:00 PM, we board our coaches to check into our hotel. Dinner is provided at the hotel. Then we depart for our concert at Basilica San Francisco el Grande near the Royal Palace. Hotel and dinner: Catalonia Plaza Major Hotel, Calle Atocha 36 28012 Madrid Phone as dialed from the US: 011 34 913 69 44 09

Day 9 Friday, March 17 Tour Madrid

After breakfast at the hotel, we start our guided tour at 10:30 by entering the Royal Palace, the Palacio Real, for a tour. The palace is one of the most beautiful in Europe, especially its architecture

and gardens. There are also excellent frescos inside the palace by Tiépolo and paintings by Velázquez, Goya, Rubens, El Greco, Juan de Flandes and Caravaggio, among others. We also tour the Royal Almudena Cathedral nearby. After lunch on our own, we transfer to the famous Prado Museum (adm. incl.) for midafternoon admission at 2:30. After our visit to the Prado, we return to our hotel to change for our Flamenco dinner and show (incl.) at la Taurina. Hotel: Catalonia Plaza Major Hotel

Day 10 Saturday, March 18 Depart Madrid for Home

After breakfast at 7:00 AM, we depart for Madrid's Barajas International Airport at 8:00 to check in for our flights to Dallas TBD, arriving DFW at 4:00 PM. After arrival, we'll board our coaches for the trip back to Ryan High School.