



**Board Meeting:** December 2, 2024

**Title:** France - 6/5/2026 - International Travel Request - Lynnea West - Normandale Elementary

**Type:** Discussion

**Presenters:** Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning; Chris Holden, Principal Normandale Elementary; and Lynnea West, Normandale Media Specialist

**Background:** In accordance with Policy 538, the following international student travel experience to Bordeaux, France for 25 Normandale Elementary French Immersion School students for thirteen days in June (June 5 - June 17) of 2026 has received support from the school's administration. Participating students will not miss any school days for this summer travel experience.

This expedition is coordinated by Language & Friendship, an international student travel exchange program that partners with communities in cultural exchange programs. Students spend time in French schools, living with host families and participating in several local excursions.

In addition to providing growth opportunities in their target language acquisition, this cultural exchange student travel experience supports learning in an authentic context.

**Cost:** The anticipated inclusive cost of this experience is approximately \$4,500 per student. This price is inclusive of all transportation, accommodations, meals, transfers, medical, and repatriation insurance. Students will be responsible for all costs. There will be need-based scholarships and other scholarships offered. There will also be some fundraising opportunities.

**Transportation:** All students and chaperones will travel as a group from Minneapolis to Bordeaux and return via a major U.S. international airline or partner.

**Accommodations:** Students and chaperones will be housed with host families organized and vetted by the French partner of Language & Friendship, Terre des Langues.

**Supervision:** Staff members traveling with the group are administrator Chris Holden, and licensed staff member Lynnea West and Wilson Goss.

**Recommendation:** Review the international travel experience for discussion. An additional discussion will occur at the Board Meeting on 12.2.24 and action will occur at the 1.6.25 Board Meeting.

**Desired Outcomes for the Board:** Review the background information provided and come prepared with your initial reactions (comments and questions) on the student travel experience.

**Attachments:**

1. Appendix III Board Policy 538, [Extended Field Trip and Travel Application Insurance](#)
2. [Language & Friendship Program Information](#)
3. [Insurance](#)