



Board Meeting Date: 3/17/23

Title: Edina High School France Student Exchange

Type: Discussion

Presenters: Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning; and Jenn Carter, Edina High School Assistant Principal

Description: In accordance with Policy 538, the EHS French department would like to partner with the Georges Duby High school in a student exchange opportunity in the winter of 2024. Students will develop a personal understanding of French culture while being ambassadors of Minnesota culture. Students will also have an authentic opportunity to use their French language skills.

The original Exchange opportunity created in the 2019-2020 school year stated the following:

*In accordance with Policy 538, the following international student travel experience for up to 20 Edina High School students from **October 10-21, 2020** has received support from the school's administration. Participating students will miss 5 school days for this fall travel experience.*

This school exchange between Edina High School and Notre Dame La Riche in Tours, France provides students with a homestay, an opportunity to experience a French high school, a chance to visit French historical and artistic sites and to use their French in a realistic and authentic way.

In addition to providing growth opportunities across the EPS Educational Competencies, this field-based, language oriented, student travel experience supports learning across numerous Minnesota social studies, art and world language standards.

Destination: Aix-en-Provence France, Lycée Georges Duby

of students - approximately 20 10th grade students

Lodging and meal arrangements When in the host family situation, on the school exchange, students and chaperones will be housed in host families, 1 student per family. They will have their own bed and private accessibility to the bathroom. Meals will also be provided by the families. When in other locations, students will stay in 3-4 person hotel rooms.

Transportation: All students and chaperones will travel as a group from Minneapolis to France (either into Paris or Marseille among other choices) and return via a major U.S. international airline or partner. While in France, students will travel via high-speed train (TGV) and possible bus travel as well.

Dates of the trip: The French School has proposed February 17-March 2. This would mean a departure from MSP to Marseille (arriving the morning of February 17, 2024. Edina travelers would return on March 2, 2024 ready for school on Monday, March 5, 2024.

Days absent/When school is in session as well as Nonschool days/vacation time: Students would be absent from school on February 21-23, and February 26-March 1, a total of 8 school days. The first weekend will include the President's day holiday and a staff development day. The middle weekend students would be with their host families and the March 1 weekend, students would return to Edina. The team is currently working on an option to decrease the total numbers of days missing school as per the signed preliminary approval.

Estimated cost per student: Now that we have proposed dates, we are sending a bid to Language and Friendship, Minneapolis student travel company. The 2020 bid was \$3300 but that included time in Paris. Again, as families work with each other and commit to hosting students, we feel confident that we can make something happen for \$3500 or less.

Supervision: Staff members traveling with the group are Kim Caster and Cliff Schwartz.

Recommendation: Discuss the student travel experience. The experience will be brought back to the board for approval on 5.15.23.

Desired Outcomes from the Board: Review the background information provided and provide feedback on the student travel experience.

Attachments:

1. [District Wide International Travel Schedule](#)
2. [EHS Comprehensive Travel Schedule](#)
3. [Appendix III 538. Extended Field Trip and Travel Application Preliminary Approval](#)
4. Insurance will be provided. Upon approval of this exchange the Edina High School team will continue to determine the detailed organization of the travel experience and include insurance as part of that process.