

Curriculum & Student Development Committee

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 5:00 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room/Zoom, 10 Campus Drive , Madison, CT 06443

I. **DHHS 2026-2027 Program of Studies**

II. **Curriculum Adoption: Conceptual Astronomy**

III. **International Trip Proposal: Costa Rica**

IV. **Public Comment**

V. **The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town ADA/Human Resources Director, Debra Ferrante, at 203-245-6310 or by email at ferranted@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.**

Daniel Hand High School

2026 - 2027 Program of Studies

Overview of Changes

Graduation Requirement Course Update

- ❖ Independent Project
- ❖ Personal Finance

Department Specific Updates

- ❖ Art Department
- ❖ Mathematics Department
- ❖ Science Department
- ❖ World Language Department



Graduation Requirement Course Update

Independent Project & Personal Finance

Offered to Grades 11 & 12 only



Art Department Update

Revised Department Overview

Art is essential! The Art Department in Madison encourages and cultivates a unique sense of creativity in every student. Offering a wide variety of curricular pathways and experiences, each student can access their desired materials and methods while also developing a breadth of creative and technical skills from the traditional to the digital and commercial. We seek to create confident and curious minds prepared to craft the future of their dreams with passionate, fearless originality.

Many classes are beginner friendly; come discover your voice and creative outlet! Our growth-based approach ensures that each student is met at their skill level and receives personalized and specific feedback to help them develop as artists. We encourage risk-taking in a safe environment.



Art Department Update

Revised Department Overview

With an emphasis on process, investigation, and reflection along with the elements and principles of design, we seek to endow every student with the tools to pursue, apply, and appreciate excellence in the visual arts as an integral part of their personal and professional journey. The creative thinking developed in the arts, such as holistic problem solving, empathy, pattern reading, and visualization of complex ideas, coupled with those formed in the core educational curriculum, is what will prepare our students to meet the emerging challenges of the future.



Art Department Update

Revised Course Name

Clay → Ceramics

Drawing → Drawing Studio I

Drawing Studio → Drawing Studio II

Short Films → Movie Making



Art Department Update

Designation Removal - Humanities

AP Studio Art Drawing



Art Department Update

New Designations - STEM



Photography: Darkroom to Digital

Commercial Photography



Mathematics Department Update

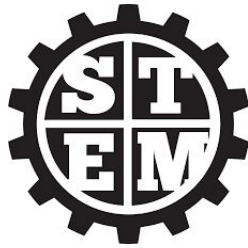
Removal of Course Offerings

Algebra II Level 3



Mathematics Department Update

New Course Offerings



Algebra II A

Algebra II B

Algebra II C



Science Department Update

Revised Course Name

Earth Science → Conceptual Astronomy



Science Department Update

Revised Grade Level Offerings: Grades 9 - 12

Conceptual Astronomy

Conceptual Chemistry

Conceptual Physics



World Language Department Update

Revised UCONN Course Alignment

AP French 5

Global Culture 1: FREN3250



THANK YOU!

*The following slides contain any new or revised
Course Descriptions.*



Animation I

Animation has become a powerful medium for self-expression, entertainment, branding products, and generating excitement about an idea.

This course will move students from a content consumer to a content creator by introducing them to the creative process of bringing characters and ideas to life. Through the development of technical skills and the use of planning with storyboards, students will apply their learning in a business setting, a storytelling setting, and an expression of their choice.

Animation II

Bring your ideas to life with greater detail and creativity. Animation II builds on the skills from Animation I, guiding students to refine their techniques. Students will explore current trends in the animation industry, create characters, develop a music video and collaborate as a production team to plan, problem-solve, and produce polished animated works.

***NEW* Algebra II A**

This course focuses on essential algebraic concepts necessary for advanced mathematics and is intended to prepare students for Algebra II B. Students will review and deepen their understanding of core concepts including systems of equations and inequalities and linear equations and functions. Students will explore quadratic and exponential equations and their functions.

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I

This course is open to all students who have completed Algebra I and required for students earning C+ or lower in Algebra I.

***NEW* Algebra II B**

This course focuses on the major function families and their characteristics. It is intended to prepare students for Algebra II C, Statistics, Pre-College Algebra & Trigonometry or Discrete Math. Topics include a detailed study of equations and functions, including absolute value, quadratic, and polynomial.

Prerequisite: Algebra I with a grade of B- or higher or completion of Algebra II A.

NEW Algebra II C

This course focuses on advanced topics in algebra, introducing students to key topics for precalculus. Students will study the relationship between exponential and logarithmic functions, rational functions, and provides an introduction to trigonometric functions.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II B

Algebra II C is required for students planning to take precalculus.

AP French 5

This course is a French conversation course designed to improve oral proficiency as students continue to advance skills in reading, writing, and listening in the French language, as well as enhancing their cultural competency. Through articles, podcasts, videos, and newscasts that address a wide variety of topics, students will gain an appreciation for contemporary francophone culture and develop the tools necessary to express their opinions and ideas through written and oral French. As part of the requirements of this course, students will present a topic of their choice and lead a debate with their classmates for twenty minutes. Students will also choose a French novel to read and analyze. The course includes ongoing grammar review. Students must speak exclusively in French during the course. Students taking this course are encouraged to take the College Board's AP French Language and Culture examination in May.

AP Latin 4

Students in Latin 4 will follow the AP curriculum begun in Latin 3 Honors. Students will be reading, in both English and Latin, major sections of the great Roman epic, Vergil's Aeneid, Pliny the Younger, and a selection of Latin poetry. Students will engage in project-based learning focused on four passages selected by the College Board annually. The course acts as a culmination of themes, vocabulary, and grammar skills developed throughout the students' high school career. Students in Latin 4 will be asked to answer the questions: "How do the victors shape history?", "What makes a hero?", and "How does style shape meaning?" Students taking this course are encouraged to take the College Board's AP Latin Examination in May.

AP Studio Art Drawing

Take artistic expression to the next level through a personal sustained investigation to create a conceptually and aesthetically cohesive body of artwork. Students drive their own creative journey and instruction is tailored to compliment their individual needs.

This course focuses on the synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas in the creation of meaningful and personally relevant work. As students engage in the creative process, they will be expected to document their progress and ideas, consider how the work should be presented, and write artist statements that articulate information for the viewer. AP Drawing students should be motivated to challenge themselves to the highest standards of creation, be prepared to work consistently in class and at home, and revise work based on feedback.

The AP Drawing exam is the submission of a digital portfolio to College Board documenting the work done during the course for adjudication. Students who submit portfolios will receive a score ranging from 1-5.

Ceramics

This is a hands-on course designed to teach students the foundational skills necessary to create beautiful and practical works of ceramics. From the very beginning students will dive into the world of pottery, learning to throw on the potter's wheel (a skill everyone will practice and refine throughout the trimester). Students will also cover clay preparation and wedging, surface design techniques, and the application of various glazes and their effects. Come learn how to enjoy creating a variety of functional pieces of art like mugs, bowls, vases, and lidded containers.

Commercial Photography

Photography is a vitally important aspect of almost every entrepreneurship venture.

Businesses wanting to sell a product or promote their brand look to the field of photography. It can be a lucrative market for those who excel at it. This course will focus on the use of the studio to develop essential skills such as mastery of digital cameras, studio lighting, composition, and imagination/creativity. Students will also explore how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence are influencing the field of photography—from concept development to post-production—while learning to navigate these tools in an ethical and responsible manner. There will be an emphasis on creating photos to be displayed in magazines, websites, and other forms of social media through development in the four most sought-after categories of commercial photography: fashion, food, portraiture, and product advertising.

Conceptual Astronomy

This course is designed to support students in developing essential skills for navigating the world, including those in mathematics and reading for information, as well as critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Through engaging learning experiences, students will develop the inquiry skills necessary to succeed in future science courses.

This subject of Astronomy explores how scientists learn about the universe by interpreting the light and motion of objects in space. Using simple models and real data, students estimate stellar distances, describe star properties, and explain how stars, including our Sun, form, change, and end, connecting that story to the formation of the planets within our solar system. Learning is hands-on and visual, with lab activities, scientific modeling, observations, and performance-based assessments that build on students' math and data analysis skills.

Movie Making

Dreaming of big-screen fame and fortune? Hone your filmmaking skills in this class!

Students will complete a series of short films which explore various aspects of storytelling and filmmaking techniques. From moody silent films to montage theory to special effects added in post-production, students cover a wide range of cinematic approaches to storytelling. No experience is necessary!

Photography: Darkroom to Digital

Stop snapping and start *creating*. This course is a deep dive into the art of visual storytelling. Students explore the entire photographic process, beginning with the tangible, historical beauty of film photography and darkroom printing. Next, unlock the full potential of digital cameras (DSLRs), applying pro-level techniques and design principles. Students will also explore how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence are influencing the field of photography—from concept development to post-production—while learning to navigate these tools in an ethical and responsible manner. Students will develop a unique style, execute a conceptual photo series, and utilize advanced Photoshop editing. Through critiques students will use feedback and self-reflection to transform your vision into a polished, professional looking portfolio.

Printmaking

Printmaking is an approach to art making where the artist builds an image on one surface and transfers it to a final surface, producing work with a unique quality that differs from drawing or painting. As an indirect, process-driven method, printmaking lends itself to spontaneity and experimentation. In this course, students will explore a variety of printmaking methods and techniques. Approaches include intaglio printmaking, block printing, montypes, and experimental printmaking. This course will introduce students to the basics of each approach, studio safety and printing press use. Students will have the opportunity to develop their own unique imagery and approach within each method. No drawing or painting experience is required, just a willingness to engage in creative play and imagination!

Sculpture

Experience the excitement of three-dimensional art! This hands-on introductory course teaches students how to create three-dimensional forms using a variety of materials and essential sculptural techniques. Students will learn core skills such as modeling, casting, and construction. The course focuses on critical art concepts like volume, texture, and composition to help effectively translate your creative vision into finished art objects.

United States History

In the U.S. History course, students will explore the themes of liberty, equality, opportunity, and America's place in the world through the historical lenses of the incredibly diverse groups (African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Latinos, European immigrants, and the many other communities*) that have shaped and continue to shape the American story. In each unit of study, students will have the opportunity to engage in deep learning through inquiry and an increased focus on historical thinking. Learning in this course relies extensively on the reading and interpretation of primary sources and other forms of historical evidence, independent research, and the clear communication of ideas. By the end of the course, students will have developed their own understandings of how the United States has become what it is, and will be empowered to shape the nation in the 21st century.

** In accordance with CT PA 22-80 Sec. 33*



Office of the Superintendent
Madison Public Schools
Madison, CT 06443

School Trip Proposal / Request Form Student International Travel

School: Daniel Hand High School Principal: T.J. Salutari

Date(s) of Trip: April Break 2027 Trip Organizer(s): E. Brako

Destination of Trip: Costa Rica

Grade level of student participants: 9-12 No. of Students: 20 (approx)

Educational Objectives including related classroom activities prior to / following the trip: _____

- To host several meetings before trip to introduce students to the rich flora and fauna of the country

- To expose students to incredible biodiversity and Central American culture

Funding Source(s): _____

Complete if students are paying for all or part of the trip.

Total fees required from each student: Tour Fee = _____

Transportation Fee = _____

Name of Tour Company: EF Tours

Name of transportation service vendor: TBD

No. of buses required: 1 Cost per bus: TBD

Date / Time of trip: Departing Madison: 4/10/2027 (approx) Returning to Madison 4/18/2027 (approx)

Number of chaperones on trip: 3

Include the information below when submitting this approval form. (Place a check mark by each item indicating its inclusion in the approval packet.)

- Information outlining parental financial responsibility should there be an emergency cancellation
- Parent / Guardian letter explaining the trip and travel itinerary
- Parent / Guardian Permission and Acknowledgment of Risk for Student International Travel Form
- Emergency Plan (Includes arrangements for medical needs, parent / guardian contact information, access to communication devices, and procedures for general potential emergency situations)
- List of Chaperone Names and Phone Numbers with MPS employees noted
- Telephone Tree in the event of an emergency

Be sure the school administrator has a list of those students participating in the activity and a copy of the emergency contact numbers.



Office of the Superintendent
 Madison Public Schools
 Madison, CT 06443

School Trip Proposal / Request Form Student International Travel

I / We certify that this trip proposal is in accordance with Madison Public Schools policies #5100.8 and #6100.16.1 and corresponding regulations:

Elisa Braku
 Signature, Trip Organizer(s)

Trip approved
[Signature] Date 12/4/25
 Signature, Principal / Assistant Principal

[Signature] Date 12/4/25
 Signature, Superintendent or Designee

Trip Denied

Reason: _____

 Signature, Superintendent or Designee Date

International Travel Checklist

- Obtained approval at least six (6) months prior to the trip.
- Submitted list of participating students to Principal and Health Office at least three (3) months prior to the trip.
- Submitted an updated list of participating students to Principal and Health Office one (1) month prior to trip.
- Submitted flight, hotel, charter bus, and airport information one (1) month prior to trip.
- Arranged appropriate number of chaperones and provided orientation
- Clearly explained expectations of students
- Received parent permission forms and emergency medical forms

DHHS FIELD TRIP BUDGET WORKSHEET

Name of Trip: Costa Rica : A Touch of the Tropics

Submitted By: Elisa Brako

Date of Trip: April Break 2027

COST OF EVENT PER STUDENT	\$4,289.00	Approximate
Multiply by # STUDENTS ATTENDING	<u>\$20</u>	
SUBTOTAL EVENT COST	\$85,780	
COST PER BUS	\$ 2,500.00	Approximate
Multiply by # BUSES	\$ <u>1.00</u>	
SUBTOTAL BUS COST	\$ 2,500.00	
OTHER EXPENSES, PLEASE LIST		
<u>OTHER EXPENSES: Insurance, trip expenses</u>	6000	Approximate
TOTAL COST OF TRIP (add all yellow lines)	\$94,280	
DIVIDED BY TOTAL # OF STUDENTS ATTENDING	<u>20</u>	
COST PER STUDENT (see below)	4714	
If student fees total the following amounts, you must add an additional cost per student to cover associated IC charges. Up to \$30 = \$2 per student OR \$30 - \$70 = \$1 per student		what is the charge for over \$70?
* List/deduct any costs will be covered by Board Account or Department:		
TOTAL COST PER STUDENT	4714	Approximate

CC: BUDGET SHEET to Sue Evans along with ROSTER so fees can be added to IC fee statements.

Completed form must be submitted with Field Trip Proposal Packet.



Daniel Hand High School

286 Green Hill Road
Madison, CT 06443
(203) 245-6350

Anthony R. Salutari, Jr., Principal
Brian M. Bodner, Assistant Principal
Melanie A. Whitcher, Assistant Principal

Dear Parents / Guardians,

December 2025

In today's interconnected world, helping students become culturally aware and globally minded is more important than ever. When they step into the global classroom and witness their lessons come to life, it can be a life-changing experience that broadens their understanding of themselves and the world beyond.

I'm pleased to announce that I am planning to take students on an educational tour to Costa Rica during Spring Break in 2027. We hope your student can join us for an unforgettable adventure where we will wander through the magical mists of Monteverde's Cloud Forest, trek the volcanic trails of Arenal, and come face-to-face with toucans, scarlet macaws, sloths, monkeys, crocodiles, and countless other incredible creatures. **Feel free to check out our itinerary here.**

Your student is being personally invited to participate. There is limited space on the trip, so I do hope you and your child will be able to join us at the upcoming meeting to learn more about this opportunity!

I have chosen to travel with EF because of their reputation as the world leader in international education and student safety. They have been in business for more than 50 years and have local offices in over 50 countries throughout the world. EF guarantees the lowest prices for the highest quality and also offers a monthly payment plan to make the trip more affordable. Lower pricing now and lower monthly payments for planning this far in advance are the main reasons we're starting to plan now.

We will be hosting an enrollment meeting on **DATE at TIME at LOCATION**. I hope you will come and learn more! In order to attend, you must RSVP! You can do so by scanning the QR code and choosing 'attending' or 'interested', or visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/3tMK8bX>

**QR
Code**

Respectfully yours,

Elisa Brako
*AP Biology, Biotechnology, and Honors Biology Teacher
Faculty Advisor to GAINS Club and Eco Club*

Addendum to School Trip Proposal form

Elisa Brako

Costa Rica trip

April 2027

The information below is provided by:

Rachel Present

EF Education First

eftours.com

Direct: 475-256-0843

Two Education Circle

Cambridge, MA 02141

Regarding parent financial responsibility should there be an emergency cancellation:

All information outlining parent financial responsibilities is outlined in our Booking Conditions that every traveler signs when enrolling on tour. Those can be viewed at eftours.com/bc. Specifically, you can reference this section to see our standard cancellation policy:

Cancellations and Modifications

STANDARD CANCELLATION POLICY

The cancellation policies outlined below take into consideration the costs EF incurs often years before groups ever depart. Notice of cancellation from an EF tour will only be accepted from the traveler, their legal guardian, or the Group Leader. The date of cancellation will be determined by the date on which EF receives notice. In order to qualify for refunds in accordance with EF's Standard Cancellation Policy, all payments must be received on time.

EF's Standard Cancellation Policy*

- 360 days or more prior to departure: Full refund less the \$95 non-refundable enrollment fee, all Non-Refundable Fees, and a \$100 cancellation fee.
- 359 to 180 days prior to departure: Full refund less the \$95 non-refundable enrollment fee, all Non-Refundable Fees, and a \$300 cancellation fee.
- 179 to 110 days prior to departure: Full refund less the \$95 non-refundable enrollment fee, all Non-Refundable Fees, and a \$500 cancellation fee.
- 109 to 60 days prior to departure: Full refund less the \$95 non-refundable enrollment fee, all Non-Refundable Fees, and 50% of the program price.
- 59 days or less prior to departure: No refund will be issued.

**Travelers who purchase a Global Travel Protection plan receive two options to cancel the trip due to reasons not covered by the insurance underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company: (i) travelers who cancel 360 days or more prior to departure and who purchased their Global Travel Protection plan within 10 days of enrollment will have the cost of the plan refunded and the \$100 cancellation fee waived; (ii) travelers who cancel 60 days or more prior to departure may rebook to another EF Educational Tour within 30 days of such cancellation. Travelers opting for the rebooking option are responsible for finding a new tour, and final placement is based on availability. Such tour needs to take place within 180 days from cancellation, and any difference in price will be covered by the traveler (non-refundable fees from the original tour will not be put*

toward the rebooked tour). The cancellation fee waiver and rebooking benefits are non-insurance benefits provided by EF Educational Tours.

* Travelers who purchase the Global Travel Protection Plus plan also have the option to cancel with a non-insurance Cancel for Any Reason waiver benefit provided by EF Educational Tours up to 24 hours before departure. The non-insurance Cancel for Any Reason waiver benefit provided by EF Educational Tours provides a cash refund for trip costs paid (less the cost of the plan, the non-refundable enrollment fee, and other Non-Refundable Fees) to EF Educational Tours for cancellation prior to departure. For plans issued in New York, customers can purchase the non-insurance Cancel for Any Reason waiver benefit separately from the rest of the travel protection plan – for further details, please contact Risk Strategies at 877-974-7462 ext. 321.

Cancellation with replacement**

- 180 days or more prior to departure: Full refund less the \$95 non-refundable enrollment fee and all Non-Refundable Fees.
- 179 to 110 days prior to departure: Full refund less the \$95 non-refundable enrollment fee, all Non-Refundable Fees, and a \$100 substitution fee.
- 109 days or less prior to departure: Replacements can no longer be accepted and EF's Standard Cancellation Policy will apply.

** Cancellation with replacement refers to a traveler who cancels but finds a person to replace them for the same program. The replacement's Enrollment Form must be submitted at the same time as the notification of cancellation.

Emergency Plan:

Some general notes on safety:

EF's unmatched global presence

With 600 schools and offices in 50 countries worldwide, including regional offices dedicated to on-tour support, our global presence is truly unmatched. Our 50,000+ staff and faculty members around the world provide a local presence and are able to react quickly and in person where necessary. Plus, the staff in each office and school are trained to respond to a wide range of emergency situations.

Dedicated Emergency Service and Incident Response Teams

EF's Emergency Service & Support Team is available 24/7 to resolve any issue, from a missed flight to a lost passport to more serious on-tour incidents. They also facilitate communication between travelers and families in the event of an emergency at home. The Emergency Service & Support Team is made up of highly trained, dedicated EF staff based in our Boston, Denver, and Austin offices who are equipped to solve problems and answer questions that may come up, even outside of regular business hours. This team also maintains direct communication with our Operations Safety & Incident Response Team to jointly solve issues as needed.

Background checks on adult travelers

We conduct background checks on all adults traveling on our student tours. This is meant to help provide a safer tour experience for all travelers, and is a similar process to what many school districts implement for adults who volunteer in schools or chaperone school activities. Background checks take place through a secure process that is meant to specifically identify individuals who could present a risk to student travelers while on tour.

Specifics to Emergency plan:

- Your Tour Director is your group's constant companion and first point of contact in an emergency. Additionally, our fully trained support teams are on hand 24/7 to walk teachers through any issues and

provide the resources necessary to get things back on track (this could be a doctor visit, a delayed flight, or a missing passport). Our Safety and Incident Response Team—comprised of industry experts, healthcare experts, and even former FBI personnel—is ready to spring into action 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our #1 goal is to support our groups & not have a "one size fits all" response to on the ground concerns (for example, even with minor flight situations, our response to a group of 6 would be to find another existing flight while we have had airlines charter flights for groups that could fill a plane).

- Each traveler has an EF account they access through a secure site where they will upload passport information and emergency contact information should a member of our Emergency Services or the group leader need to contact the family. Students should always be in small groups, and it is best practice for one student in that group to have a working cell phone. Wifi is usually easily available in hotels, restaurants, and public places.



Office of the Superintendent
 Madison Public Schools
 Madison, CT 06443

Parent / Guardian Permission and Acknowledgement of Risk for Student Travel

Parent Directions: Please read this form, and, if you give your child permission to attend the school trip, sign and return it to your child's teacher.

School: Daniel Hand High School Principal: Mr. Salutari
 Date(s) of Trip: April 9/10 → April 17/18 (2027) Trip Organizer(s): E. Brako
 Destination of Trip: Costa Rica
 Cost of Trip: TBD (under \$5,000)
 Educational Objectives: To expose students to the rich flora and fauna, and culture that Costa Rica has to offer

Supervision:

- Students will be directly supervised by adults at all times
- Students will be directly supervised by adults with the following exceptions: _____
- A School Nurse will be present on this school trip.

Transportation Provided: School Bus Charter Bus Train Personal Vehicle Leased Vehicle

Drivers of Personal or Leased Vehicles (Gr. 4-12): Parent Teacher / Staff Member Other Adult

Related Risks: Swimming Pool Amusement / Theme Park Beach or Ocean Other None

Student Agreement:

While participating in this school trip, I will accept responsibility for maintaining conduct in accordance with the Madison Public Schools Code of Conduct and I will follow directions of the school trip organizers/chaperones at all times.

Student Signature (Gr. 4 -12): _____ Date: _____

Parent / Guardian Acknowledgment of Risks:

I understand that participation on this school trip is voluntary and that it exposes my child to some risk(s). I also understand that the trip may include amusement/theme park activities and that participation in amusement/theme park activities will expose my child to some risk of injury or even death. I have read and understand the attached description of the school trip. I also understand that participation in the school trip will involve activities on school property; therefore, neither the Board of Education nor its employees and volunteers will have any responsibility for the condition or use of any non-school property.

Parent / Guardian Permission

I give permission for _____ to participate in all aspects of this school trip.

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Madison Public Schools cannot be responsible for reimbursements to parents or students of money submitted as "advance payment" (e.g., Broadway shows, transportation, hotels) for any field trip that the district cancels.

Parent/Guardian Contact in Case of Emergency

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Health Insurance Provider: _____ **Policy #:** _____

Health History

Allergies/Dietary Restrictions (food, medicine, environment, etc.): _____

Medical Concerns and Health Conditions: _____

Parent/Guardian Consent and Release:

I/We, the undersigned parent/guardian, agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Madison Public Schools and their employees and agents from and against any claim either I/We or my child may have as a result of any act or omission which may arise out of this authorization.

I/We further consent to urgent medical treatment by a health care provider in the event of illness or injury of our child during their participation in the trip/activity/program. I/We accept full responsibility for all costs for any medical treatment.

I/We consent for the release of confidential medical information to be released to and from medical providers and the school trip/activity/program organizers and chaperones as needed to maintain my child's health and safety.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



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Student Travel Medical Form

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Will your child require medication during this trip? _____ YES _____ NO

If NO please proceed to the BACK of this form. If YES please complete BOTH sides of this form.

- Medications currently stored in the Health Office for your child will be sent on school trips. If additional medication is required, please *provide only the amount of medication needed for the duration of the trip.*
- The parent/guardian must deliver the medication directly to the nurse *(at least 24 hours before departure of the field trip)*. Controlled substances must be counted with the nurse, or their designee, at the time of delivery.
- *All medication must be in original pharmacy labeled containers*, including student's name, dosage, route, and frequency of administration (including inhalers, Epi Pens, and all regularly or occasionally taken medications).
- *Students may only self-carry life threatening medical provider authorized medications* (examples, Epi pens, inhalers, diabetic medications)

Staff Administered Medication(s) - List each medication individually			
Medication Name	Dosage Information <i>Frequency, AM/PM, etc.</i>	Comments <i>Optional</i>	FOR STAFF USE ONLY Given By & Date / Time

Authorized Self-Administered Medication(s) - List each medication individually	
Medication Name	Comments <i>(Optional)</i>

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Phone: _____

Medical Provider Signature: _____ Phone: _____

COSTA RICA

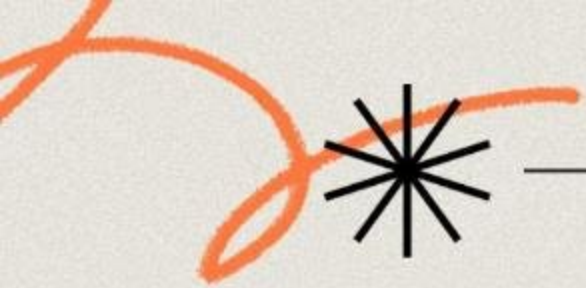
A Touch Of The Tropics



EDUCATIONAL
TOURS

Spring Break 2027





Journeys that travel with them for the rest of their lives



94% of EF travelers say the tour expanded their knowledge of the world

84% felt the tour helped them grow as a person

84% felt inspired by their tour

Costa Rica: A Touch of the Tropics

THE ITINERARY

Our trip



Tour itinerary

Costa Rica: A Touch of the Tropics - 9 or 10 days

[Download an overview of this tour](#)

Day 1: Fly to Costa Rica

Meet your Tour Director at the destination airport

Day 2: Alajuela • Arenal region

Take a tour of a coffee farm
Travel to the Arenal region
Enjoy a hike in Arenal Volcano National Park

Day 3: Arenal region

Enjoy a kayaking trip on Lake Arenal
Visit La Fortuna Waterfall
Participate in a cultural exchange with locals
Visit the Arenal hot springs

Day 4: Arenal region • Monteverde

Travel to Monteverde

Day 5: Monteverde

Experience the thrill of a ziplining adventure through the Costa Rican canopy (*Participants must weigh less than 200 lbs*)
Visit the Santa Elena Cloud Forest

Day 6: Monteverde • Central Pacific Coast

Travel to the Central Pacific Coast
Visit the Rainforest Adventure Park, where you will:

- Ride an aerial tram above the canopies
- Explore a nature trail
- Visit a butterfly sanctuary

Enjoy a crocodile safari boat cruise

Day 7: Central Pacific Coast

Visit Manuel Antonio National Park

Day 8: Central Pacific Coast • Sarchí • Alajuela

Travel via Sarchí to Alajuela

Day 9: Depart for home

- We are customizing this tour to better align with our curriculum.
- Requested travel dates: April 9 – April 17, 2027
- Full flexible travel window to create the best on-the-ground experience: April 8 – April 18, 2027

Trip Highlights:

- **Kayaking trip** on Lake Arenal
- Experience **hot springs**
- Hike through the famous **Monteverde cloud forest**
- **Ziplining** through rainforest
- **Crocodile** safari boat cruise
- **Beaches, monkeys and sloths** at a Manuel Antonio National Park

Customizations being considered:

- Ecological **night tour** of rainforest
- **Coffee and chocolate** making tour
- **White water rafting**
- Walk on **hanging bridges** in rainforest

Price Estimate for Costa Rica, 9 Days from NYC:

30+ Paying Travelers \$3,900 - \$4,100

20-29 Paying Travelers \$4,200 - \$4,400

10-19 Paying Travelers \$4,500 - \$4,700

\$95 to enroll on our travel-based learning program. Customize your payments.

Plus, you can cancel for any reason up to 7 days after enrollment for a full refund

What's included:

- Full-time Tour Director
- All transportation, including round-trip flights
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily
- Overnight hotel stays with private bathrooms
- Expert led sightseeing and guided tours
- All entrance tickets
- Optional academic credit
- Traveler support for student account questions
- 24/7 Emergency Assistance

What travelers are responsible for:

- Passport (and visas if necessary)
- Baggage fees for checked luggage
- *Tips for local guides, tour director, and bus drivers.
- Snacks
- *Transportation to NYC airport.

*Can be added into tour cost.

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

The details



	Recommended! +\$190	+\$440	+\$590
COVERAGE	GLOBAL TRAVEL PROTECTION	GLOBAL TRAVEL PROTECTION FLEX	GLOBAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PLUS
Program cancellation	Limited and pre-defined reasons	<u>Any reason</u> up to 60 days prior to departure	<u>Any reason</u> up to 24 hours prior to departure
Program interruption	✓	✓	✓
Illness & accident	✓	✓	✓
Baggage & property	✓	✓	✓
Flight delay	✓	✓	✓
Emergency evacuation	✓	✓	✓
Baggage tracking service	X	✓	✓

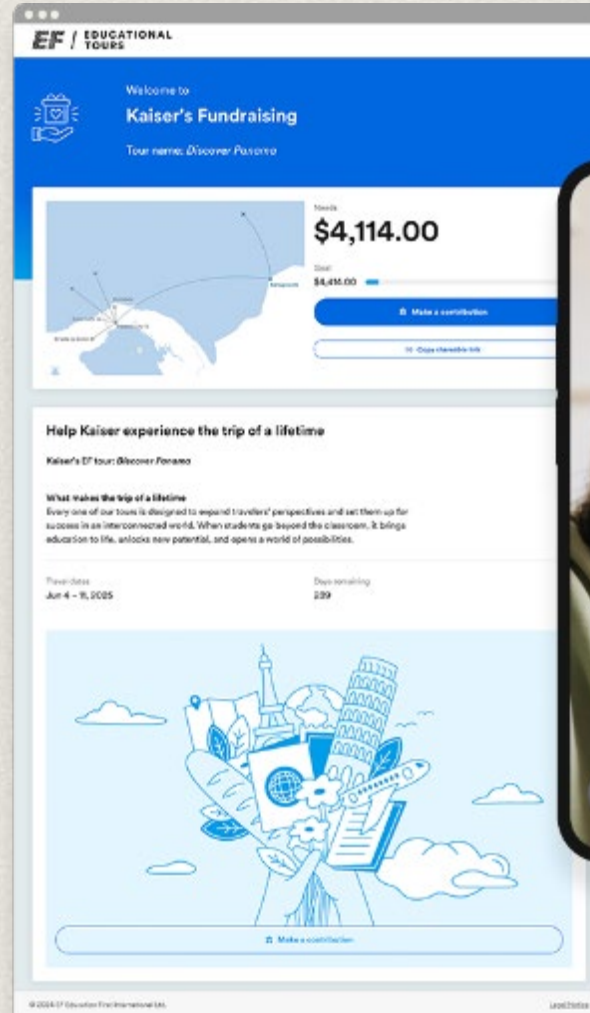
EF puts safety first. And second. And third.

- **Safety & Incident Response Team** available 24/7, 365 days a year and trained to react quickly if travelers need help
- EF has **unmatched worldwide presence**, including staff on the ground in over 115 countries
- **Mandatory safety training** for teachers and **background checks** for adult travelers
- **Best-in-the-industry experience** means EF is ready, whatever happens
- **Peace of Mind Program** is built into every tour and allows groups to change dates and destinations



The navy dots are every place EF has an office!

Personalized fundraising page to share with family and friends



Global Citizens Scholarship gives 100 students a year \$1,000 off their EF tour

Complete a short form and submit a 2-3 minute video to apply

From travel to transcript



- As an accredited institution, EF offers academic courses that connect directly to your student's tour experience
- Students can earn The EF | Nobel Prize Museum Global Citizen Certificate and/or high school credit (**offered at no additional cost**)
- They can also earn 3 college credits for just \$550 – a fraction of typical tuition
- Each course has engaging assignments before, during, and after tour – like journaling abroad or filming friends trying local foods
- EF will share more details after enrollment



EDUCATIONAL
TOURS

Global Travel Program Proposal



Your partner in travel-based learning

Our mission

We're educators, just like you. And we're dedicated to helping students become more future ready.

EF stands for Education First. For almost 60 years, we've worked in service of our mission, *Opening the World Through Education*, to help learners of all ages overcome barriers of culture, language, and geography to increase global understanding. We partner with educators to provide innovative, immersive programs that prepare students to succeed in college, in their careers, and throughout their adult lives. Here's how we'll collaborate with your school to create meaningful learning experiences.

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Learning outcomes

It's our goal to put "education first" in every single tour. That's why we carefully design our itineraries to complement your teaching, offering students hands-on experiences that deepen their understanding, build essential skills, and inspire them to apply their learning in meaningful ways.

Our method

We enhance what you teach with relevant experiences outside the classroom.

Our proven travel-based learning method safely takes students out of their comfort zones and helps them understand more about themselves and the world around them. It sparks a true journey of self-discovery, empowering them to take action and make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

Our programs

We design every EF program with a curriculum of immersive, hands-on learning that builds essential skills.

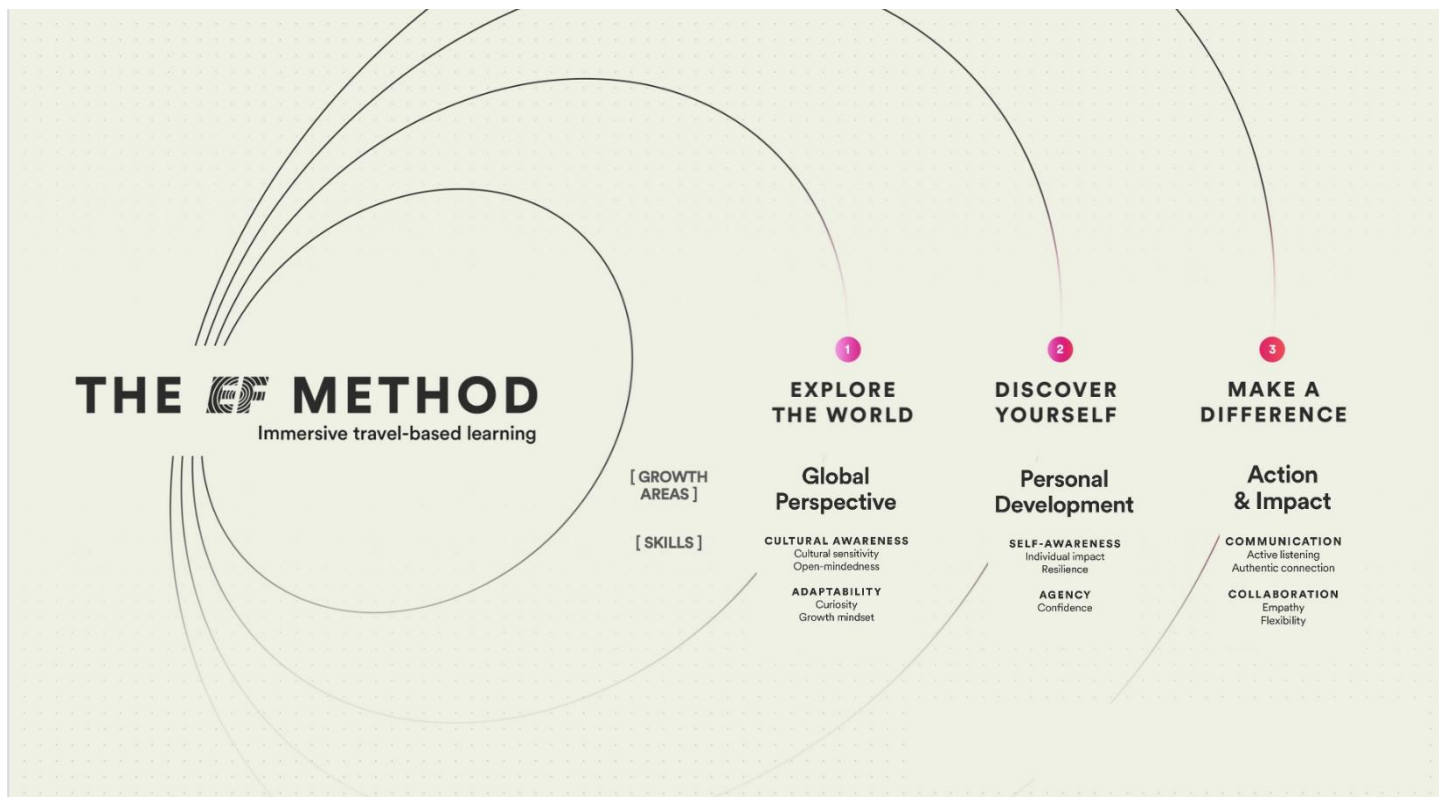
EF learning journeys offer incredible growth opportunities. Through professionally guided travel, authentic cultural exchange, experiential learning, and independent discovery, students develop critical skills they'll carry with them through the rest of their lives.



Learning outcomes

Continued

EF students build essential skills in these key growth areas:



Explore the World

Students will gain a global perspective & gain skills in:

- **Cultural awareness:** Experiencing different contexts fosters cross-cultural knowledge and skills, encouraging open-mindedness.
- **Adaptability:** Navigating unfamiliar environments teaches you how to adjust to new situations, overcome challenges, and thrive in diverse settings. This helps build curiosity and develop a growth mindset.

Discover Themselves

Students will encounter personal development & gain skills in:

- **Self-awareness:** Building meaningful connections with others helps reveal your own biases and beliefs, fostering mindset shifts and strengthening resilience.
- **Agency:** Knowing yourself builds confidence and helps you decide who you want to be and the mark you want to make—empowering you to become a stronger advocate for your dreams.

Make a Difference

Students will grow in action & impact and gain skills in:

- **Communication:** You connect with others more deeply through active listening, authentic connection, empathy, and appreciation—then share your own point of view.
- **Collaboration:** You develop the interpersonal skills to thrive in multicultural teams—embracing empathy and flexibility to discover better solutions, take action, and create meaningful impact.

Academic credit & professional learning

We provide opportunities for students to earn academic credit and for educators to pursue professional development, supplementing their travel experiences with real-world educational achievements.

EF is an accredited institution

Like all our tours, EF's academic courses are built around the EF Method: immersive travel-based learning that helps students and educators learn more about the world, themselves, and the impact they can make. Students can also develop the essential skills that colleges and employers value most. EF is accredited by the same prestigious organizations who accredit the schools we work with across the country.



Academic credit for students

Every EF tour includes opportunities to enhance the educational experience by earning academic credit. Immersive travel combined with academic coursework is a powerful way for students to build their resumes, stand out on college applications, and even get a jumpstart on undergraduate-level college credits—at a fraction of the normal cost!

- Students in grades 6-12 can earn **1 high school elective credit** through an online course before, during and after travel (included in the cost of tour!)
- Students in grades 6-12 can earn the **EF | Nobel Prize Museum Global Citizen Certificate**. (included in the cost of tour!)
- Students in grades 9–12 can **earn 3.0 undergraduate credits**, along with the confidence that comes with taking a college course, by completing a series of assignments and a final research project with our partner, Southern New Hampshire University—all for just \$550.

Professional learning for educators

EF offers educators unique professional learning opportunities like graduate-level college credits that can satisfy re-certification and salary advancement requirements applications, and even get a jumpstart on undergraduate-level college credits—at a fraction of the normal cost! EF offers educators unique professional learning opportunities like graduate-level college credits that can satisfy re-certification and salary advancement requirements.

- Group Leaders can earn **25 professional learning hours** by participating in the seminars and scheduled activities on an EF training tour. **10 hours** can also be earned on a Virtual Training Tour.
- Group Leaders can earn **45 professional learning hours** by completing EF's in-house course. This includes pre-tour research and coursework.
- Group Leaders can earn **3 or 6 graduate-level credits** (\$550/\$900) upon the completion of a 16-week, online course, "Leading Global Discussions," with Southern New Hampshire University the year after their tour.
- Group Leaders going on an EF Leadership Summit can earn **15 professional learning hours** by simply participating in the Professional Learning Track at Summit.

To learn more about EF's educational philosophy, visit eftours.com/education

Building equitable travel programs

One tour can open up countless possibilities for a group of students. A sustainable, multi-tour travel program extends those possibilities to even more students—year after year. It also promotes greater equity by giving families time to fund travel and by offering options that cater to different interests.

A multi-tour program could include:

2026

London, Paris & Rome (Summer)

Japan: Land of the Rising Sun (Summer)

2027

Belize: Conservation from Ridge to Reef (Spring)

Greece & Italy (Summer)

Culture & Service in Thailand (Summer)

2028

Costa Rican Explorer (Spring)

Language Immersion through Spain (Summer)

Marine Conservation in the Dominican Republic (Summer)

Travel programs in your region

Other districts in your region that embraced travel-based learning opportunities. Read on to discover how you can help the students in your community access these same life-changing experiences.

Managing cost & payments

We believe in the life-changing power of educational travel and want as many students as possible to be able to experience it. With flexible payment options, fundraising tools, and scholarships, we aim to make these transformative experiences more widely accessible.

Automatic Payment Plan

Our recommended payment plan allows travelers to break their tour fee into manageable installments. Since most tours are planned well in advance, travelers can enroll for only \$95 and then spread the tour cost over an extended period—often up to 18 months or two years—with the final payment due 30 days before departure. Families make payments directly to EF, with no payments going through the school.

Fundraising pages

Each student receives their own unique and customizable fundraising page. This easy-to-share page makes it simple for friends and family to contribute directly to the tour cost, with no fees

Global Citizen Scholarship Fund

Every year, EF Educational Tours awards \$100,000 in scholarships to students across the country. Any student can apply for the Global Citizen Scholarship, which is granted on both a merit and needs basis.

Risk-Free Enrollment Period

New travelers who enroll can cancel for any reason up to 7 days after enrollment for a full refund of 100% of the money paid to EF. Travelers must pay in full or enroll in our Automatic Payment Plan at the time of program enrollment and must remain either paid in full or enrolled in our Automatic Payment Plan and in good financial standing at the time of cancellation to remain eligible. To be eligible, the traveler must enroll on a tour at least 110 days prior to the scheduled departure date.



Safety

Our travelers' safety is our top priority. With an extensive global presence, industry-leading experience, and close relationships with U.S. and international authorities, that's a statement we can back up with confidence. We ensure that every situation is managed with the utmost care.

Worldwide presence

EF's global presence is truly unmatched. We have staff on the ground 365 days a year in over 50 countries around the world. And we don't just work in those countries—we call them home. Better yet, EF has team members in nearly every one of our tour destinations, providing local knowledge and ensuring the safety of our groups. This presence allows us to support travelers wherever and whenever they need us.

24/7 emergency support

In the event that anything on tour goes wrong, EF staff are always available to help. Your Tour Director serves as your group's constant companion and first point of contact in an emergency. Our fully trained support teams are also on call 24/7, ready to assist teachers with any issues and provide the necessary resources to get things back on track. Finally our Safety and Incident Response Team—comprised of industry experts, healthcare experts, and even former FBI personnel—is ready to spring into action 365 days a year.



Safety

Continued

Your school's team

These EF staff are fully committed to your school's travel program and the safety of every student.

OPERATIONS SAFETY & INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

This team is strategically based in our Boston, Panama, and Zurich offices to accommodate all time zones. Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, they are trained to react quickly if travelers need help. The team uses a combination of extensive training, simulations, incident response planning, and experience to manage emergencies. They also facilitate additional support for groups on tour, solve operational issues, arrange assistance from outside specialists, and liaise with local and international authorities as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES & SUPPORT TEAM

Our support team is also available 24/7 to help resolve any issue, from a missed flight or a lost passport to more serious on-tour incidents. They're also the ones facilitating communication between travelers and families in the event of an emergency at home. The team is made up of highly trained and dedicated EF staff in our Boston and Denver offices who are equipped to solve problems and answer questions that may come up, even outside of regular business hours.

TOUR DIRECTOR

Tour Directors are assigned exclusively to each tour for the duration of the trip. They meet your group at the airport and stay with them until their departure home. All Tour Directors undergo a background check as permissible by local law every two years and are required to participate in ongoing EF safety trainings.

They're the first point of contact in an emergency and provide safety information to the travelers in their group. Tour Directors assist Group Leaders with hotel check-ins, coordinate meals, facilitate excursions with local guides, and much more. They're culturally connected and expertly trained to support impactful learning experiences.

EF TRAVEL TEAM

This team—comprised of a Tour Consultant and an EF Experience Specialist—is your school's main point of contact at EF. The Tour Consultant serves as your itinerary expert and is devoted to making sure your students get the most out of their travel experience. They partner with your school on everything from finding the perfect tour and enrolling travelers to developing long-term programs for your district and community. The EF Experience Specialist handles the finer details that make your experience with EF seamless. They work directly with Group Leaders (your teachers) right up until the moment of departure, ensuring everything goes smoothly.

TRAVELER SUPPORT

Our team of Travel Support Specialists are readily available to walk families through insurance inquiries, payment plans, food allergy issues, and any other topics that arise.

CHAPERONES

For every six travelers who enroll on a school's tour, the group is eligible to bring along a chaperone for free (with the first spot reserved for the Group Leader). This creates a 6:1 student-to-chaperone ratio, and allows chaperones to assist Group Leaders in supervising students.

Protection for travelers, schools & districts

We understand that unpredictable situations can happen, whether on tour or before departure. That's why we offer a range of protections to make sure travelers, schools, and districts are covered no matter what. We do everything we can to make planning for the future as flexible as possible.

General liability insurance

All Group Leaders, schools, and districts who travel with EF are added as additional insureds under our **\$50 million General Liability Policy**, whether or not the tour is considered a school event. EF's liability coverage is primary and non-contributory for covered third-party claims. The policy helps safeguard Group Leaders and their schools for covered third-party claims related to bodily injury or property damage, which includes providing a legal defense and covering legal costs for such claims. In addition, all travelers are required to sign EF's Release and Agreement which includes a release of liability of their Group Leader, school, and school board.

Peace of Mind Program

Provided to all groups

When your school decides to travel with EF, we want you to feel secure in that decision. This benefit, built into every EF program, gives groups the flexibility to change their tour dates or destination. It can be enacted up to 59 days prior to departure for any reason, including terrorism or other world events.



Protection for travelers, schools & districts

Continued

Protection for individual travelers

While on tour, travelers can help protect their investment and themselves from certain unexpected events and expenses with our Global Travel Protection and Global Travel Protection Plus plans.

GLOBAL TRAVEL PROTECTION

Available to all travelers

Designed specifically with EF travelers in mind, this plan provides both pre-departure and post-departure benefits, including medical expense coverage that may apply on tour and tour cancellation coverage for specified reasons.

GLOBAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PLUS

Available to all travelers

This plan provides all of the benefits included in the Global Travel Protection Plan as well as expanded cancellation protection.

Background checks for adult travelers

EF requires all adults (20 years and older) to pass a criminal background check before travelling on our student tours. This provides a safer tour experience for all and aligns with the process many school districts have for adults who volunteer or chaperone school activities. Conducted by a leading professional provider, the secure background check only flags individuals who could present a risk to student travelers while on tour.



Travel logistics

Proposed tour for Elisa Brako in Spring 2027

Price of this tour

The tour program price covers a wide range of services that ensure students have an incredible travel experience. It includes all the planning and preparation that leads up to departure, travel and accommodations, and logistical support once the group reaches their destination. This tour is a customized tour, meaning that this tour will be only for students at Daniel Hand High School and customizations have been added to better match the curriculum.

Full, flexible travel window: April 8 - 18, 2027

Requested travel dates: April 9 - 17, 2027

30+ Paying Travelers	\$3,900 - \$4,100
20-29 Paying Travelers	\$4,200 - \$4,400
10-19 Paying Travelers	\$4,500 - \$4,700

*Travelers enrolling in December 2025 are eligible for a \$200 early enrollment discount. This will be added to the tour cost once the tour customizations have been finalized.

Hotels

Every hotel we partner with must meet our strict standards for safety, quality, and cleanliness. Hotels are thoroughly vetted by our team and they're regularly inspected to ensure they continue to meet these standards. It's important to note that hotels abroad may have different amenities than travelers may be accustomed to in the United States. Below are expectations & examples of hotels travelers may encounter at your proposed destination:

Monteverde, Costa Rica

While you are in Costa Rica you will stay in hotels and lodges which are simple, but clean and comfortable. Accommodations vary from large and modern hotels to rustic lodges, separate cabins, and family-owned bungalow-style hotels. Some may have swimming pools. Be aware that tropical conditions in Costa Rica make insects and other small animals (such as ants, mosquitoes, lizards, spiders, and frogs) more prevalent. Electrical voltage and outlets in Costa Rica are the same as in the U.S., so you will not need an adapter or converter.

Hotel El Amanecer

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g644053-d3954195-Reviews-Hotel_El_Amanecer-Santa_Elena_Monteverde_Province_of_Puntarenas.html

Address: Barrio orquideas, Santa Elena, Monteverde, Monteverde 60109, Costa Rica

Alajuela, Costa Rica

While you are in Costa Rica you will stay in hotels and lodges which are simple, but clean and comfortable. Accommodations vary from large and modern hotels to rustic lodges, separate cabins, and family-owned bungalow-style hotels. Some may have swimming pools. Be aware that tropical conditions in Costa Rica make insects and other small animals (such as ants, mosquitoes, lizards, spiders, and frogs) more prevalent. Electrical voltage and outlets in Costa Rica are the same as in the U.S., so you will not need an adapter or converter.

Hotel Quality Real San José

<https://www.trivago.com/en-US/oar/quality-hotel-real-san-jose-san-jos%C3%A9?search=100-104449>

Address: Autopista Prospero Fernandez, 00001 San José, Costa Rica

Meals

Meals are chosen to provide a more immersive cultural experience, giving students the chance to sample traditional cuisine and experience local dining customs. Below are examples of dishes travelers may encounter at your proposed destination:

Costa Rica: Sample Meals

Rice and beans, fried sweet plantains, chicken/meat, steamed vegetables

On tour, breakfast is typically simple and served at the hotel, either plated or buffet-style. Lunch usually gives travelers the opportunity to explore the local cuisine. Dinners will be a mix of familiar dishes and local specialties, all served from a pre-set group menu.

Next steps

Requested Parent Meeting Date: 12/17

Next Steps: Finalize customizations and begin spreading the word!

My name is Rachel Present and I'm the dedicated Tour Consultant for Daniel Hand High School. I'll be working closely with your Group Leader, Elisa Brako, every step of the way to make sure your student tour is perfectly planned. If you have any questions or need additional information, don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Rachel Present
Tour Consultant
rachel.present@ef.com

“

Student travel strengthens our mission of making future graduates into global citizens. After their travels, our students return more well-rounded and success-driven because they now understand the connections between what is taught in the classroom and what is needed in the global market.

Mitch S., Administrator

