

## **WMS Proposal for Student Travel to France in April 2024**

**Dates of travel:** April 10 (or evening of 4/9) - 19 (Tuesday/Wednesday to Friday).

**Context:** As presented to the BOE on 5/3/23, WMS had the opportunity to host exchange students from Collège Assomption located on the gulf of Saint Tropez, France this past April. This was thanks to the stellar collaboration (that has occurred over the last three years) of WMS French teacher Keith Johnston and Mr. Yves Gouast from the Collège Assomption in France. All students and families had a life changing experience, and the French students and their families are eager to return the favor and welcome WMS students to their homes and school.

**Proposal:** The upcoming 23-24 school year we would like to take 30 WMS students (and any 9th graders that hosted as 8th graders) to France from **Wednesday April 10th - Saturday April 19th (departure time could be the evening of 4/9 or 4/10 (leave WMS at 1:00pm))**. **Students would miss 2 ½ school days (4/10 - 4/12), and use their April break 4/13 - 4/19**). This trip would require 4 chaperones. Students/chaperones will be hosted with French families. Students will stay in pairs with a host family (similar to the host arrangements when French students came to Brookfield).

### **Guidelines for Vaccinations, Covid & Other Safety Concerns & Passport Information:**

Students will need to obtain a valid US Passport in order to travel. At least one blank page must be available for stamping, and the passport should be valid for at least 3 more months after the proposed dates of travel. There is no tourist visa required for stays under 90 days. Information can be provided to the families about the process and cost of obtaining a passport.

Proof of negative Covid test and mask wearing are no longer required when entering France. Details confirming this can be found [here](#).

There may be a new travel requirement for Americans traveling to Europe that goes into effect before our trip. It would require pre-trip permission authorization for US Passport holders who have not previously applied for a Visa. An application would be completed on the ETIAS website and is estimated to be 7 Euros per application. We will monitor this requirement and update families as necessary.

**Insurance:** Per district insurance company: "We place a master international travel policy for all our LAP members that allows us to get coverage for international trips. We cover the cost of the policy so the coverage will come at no additional premium".

**The carrier said that they are willing to add this trip to the policy at no additional cost.**

**The underwriter said the following:**

"We have two options: If they only need accident protection, I can add them no problem. If they want the full international travel plan, with repatriation, medical evacuation, baggage assistance, etc....., I will need to send along the AXA travel plan (our partner) and the school would need to register those students directly with AXA. Again, no charge, just more of a hassle and maybe more than they're looking for."

In regards to any unforeseen medical cost each student will be required to provide (and it is recommended that they bring) health insurance information. Insurance will be accepted when applicable/available abroad, however, the parents/guardians assume responsibility for an out of pocket expense.

In the event there is a need to return home early or make any modifications to the flights, we will purchase flight insurance for each ticket. Negotiation with the airline would be necessary if making a change to a return date. Any additional cost would be at the expense of the parents/guardians.

**Transportation:** Modes of transportation for this trip include a bus to and/from airports, flights, bus, train, and metro rides in France.

**Meals:** Most meals for students will be with their host students and families. There are times during the trip (i.e. trip to Paris) where students will be required to cover the cost of a meal. This will be further detailed for families to help determine spending money recommended for the duration of the trip.

**Field Trip to Paris:** There will be an overnight trip in Paris. Students will take a train from Toulon to Paris. A hotel accommodation will be secured for the night.

**Communication Timeline:** We hope to communicate to students and their families about the trip as soon as possible to determine interest, with priority of those attending offered to host families first. The first deposit/commitment to the trip would be expected by the end of September, and would be equal to the estimated cost of the flight.

This is an incredible educational and cultural opportunity for our students as we look to complete the first cycle of the French language exchange program.

Sincerely,

Keith Johnston  
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Whisconier Middle School

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Brookfield Public Schools