

Memo

To: Ms. Ruscio

From: Mr. Van Etten

Date: 17 March 2016

Regarding: 2017 Language Trip to Costa Rica

I am recommending approval by the Board of Education for Mrs. Zimmerman to begin to hold interest meetings with students and parents for a trip planned for Costa Rica during the next school year (April, 2017). Traditionally, the trip has been planned for a school recess, with students missing school days. As the 2014 – 2015 calendar has yet to be set, dates are not shown at this time. The trip will follow our practices and procedures for overnight trips.

Tammy Zimmerman will be the lead supervisor. Approval will allow the trip will proceed into the recruitment phase. We will return with more specific numbers of students attending and supervisors that will assist.

I am happy to answer additional questions. Thank you for your support of the important learning experiences.

March 1, 2016

Dear Homer Board of Education:

Homer High School has had the privilege of offering a Study Abroad Program like no other for many years now. In 1994 I first traveled with sixteen of our upper-level Spanish students to Morelia, Mexico. They lived with host families, toured the countryside, and attended school. Just yesterday I had a conversation with a parent of one of those students and she informed me that their family still keeps in touch with the family her daughter stayed with in Mexico. Since that year I have coordinated and chaperoned over fifteen Study Abroad trips for our high school students. The past ten programs have taken place in San José, Costa Rica. My experience over the years has been put to great use and I am confident that the itinerary and overall experience for our students are like no other offered. The students live with wonderful host families, enjoy the beautiful culture and countryside of Costa Rica and most importantly attend a language institute daily where their Spanish skills can be perfected.

Having said this, I would greatly appreciate your continued support. I would like to begin my year long process of planning by holding informational meetings with interested upper-level Spanish students and their parents/guardians. We will discuss possible plans of a Costa Rica Study Abroad trip in the year 2017. *(I have included a sample itinerary from the past)* The cost of the program has ranged from \$2,200 - \$2,500. This includes all expenses. While it is almost impossible for a Homer student to fundraise the entire amount; the International Club does offer a number of opportunities and through the years parent groups have organized some activities as well.

A program of this nature takes many months of planning. With your permission I would like to begin the process and continue to inform you of the plans as they are solidified.

Thank you again for your support. I look forward to sharing this experience of a lifetime with some of Homer's finest students.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Tammy Zimmerman
Faculty Advisor to the International Club
Spanish Language Teacher
Homer High School



(Sample itinerary) Costa Rica Study Abroad (April)

- April 1: Leave Homer High School (time TBA)
Departure from Syracuse
Arrival in San José Costa Rica in the late afternoon
**Walking tour of Moravia
- April 2: Breakfast w/ host families
Café Britt Excursion!!
- April 3: Leave for Manuel Antonio National Rain Forest
Stop in Quepos for lunch/rest
Arrive Manuel Antonio
Check in Cabinas Espadilla
- April 4: Breakfast at Hotel
8:00 Leave for National Park
Day of swimming, sunning, hiking, playing
Dinner at Restaurant
Return to Hotel
- April 5: 8:00 Breakfast together
Shopping at market, swimming, hanging by the pool
Board bus to head to San José
Night with Costa Rican families
- April 6: 8:00 Classes at INTENSA Language Institute
Walking tour with Mrs. Z after school
Dinner with family/homework/journal
- April 7: 8:00 Classes at INTENSA Language Institute
Dance lesson 1:30
Dinner with family
- April 8: 8:00 Classes at INTENSA Language Institute
5:30 Bus pick up for evening at Ram Luna
Return home 11:00pm
- April 9: 8:00 Classes at INTENSA Language Institute
Afternoon quality time with Costa Rican family
- April 10: 8:00 Classes at INTENSA Language Institute
Dance lesson 1:30
Dinner with family
- April 11: Departure for Arenal/La Fortuna
Evening and dinner at Baldi Resort
- April 12: Costa Rican Tradition home cooked breakfast
Departure for San José in the morning

Hanging-bridges hike in tropical forest

- April 13: Last full day with Costa Rican families
Time to organize/pack bags for home
- April 14: 5:30am departure for Turtle Island Excursion
Boat Tour to Island
Swimming, volleyball, hiking, sunning, snacks, dinner . . .
Return 11:00pm to host families
- April 15: Departure for airport
Departure from San José
Arrival in Syracuse