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April 13 – April 21, 2018

For review and consideration by the
Brookline School Committee

Approval Route:	Approved	Denied	*Returned
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Brookline High School Field Trip Application
Brookline – Quezalguaque Sister City Project Field Trip
Quezalguaque, Nicaragua April 2018

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Additional Documents:

Forms to be completed by parents/students

Prepared by:

Ben Kahrl, Social Studies Teacher BHS, Social Studies Trip Coordinator

Chaperones:

Joanne Burke-Hunter, Social Studies Teacher BHS, Lead Chaperon
Sarah Shuster, Social Studies Teacher BHS, co-Lead Chaperone

Statement of Purpose

Brookline - Quezalguaque Sister City Student Travel

April 13, 2018 – April 21, 2018 (BHS students in Nicaragua)

Brookline High School (BHS) students and teachers are beginning an exciting cultural exchange program with the town of Quezalguaque, Nicaragua. This will be the first trip of Brookline High School students to the town in partnership with the activities of the Brookline Quezalguaque Sister City Project which has a long history connecting our town with Quezalguaque, Nicaragua. This is fully detailed in a report by the Sister City Project itself, <http://www.brooklinesistercity.org/25yearreport.pdf> as well as articles in the Brookline TAB <http://www.brooklinesistercity.org/btab.html>, the Brookline Magazine <http://www.brooklinesistercity.org/brooklineMag.html>, and the Brookline monthly magazine, Our Town <http://www.brooklinesistercity.org/OurTown.html>. These reports and articles describe a long and rich history, beginning in 1985, of cultural exchange and support between the two towns. This trip represents the first opportunity, of hopefully many, for Brookline High School students to share in this cultural exchange between the towns and support of the Quezalguaque schools and health care delivery systems.

More than 250 Brookline and Boston residents have visited Quezalguaque to volunteer for the Brookline-Quezalguaque Sister City Project Committee (hereafter referred to as BQSCPC). Volunteers have traveled to Quezalguaque Nicaragua several times to help build and establish a town library, construct a health center, build a school, and provide other support. Most recently, BQSCP has helped set up two computer classrooms in Quezalguaque schools. Additionally, BQSCP they has provided resources to the main health center built by BQSCP and for the in two of the local health posts serving outlying communities. These collaborative and supportive aid programs continue with plans to expand aid to the schools in the form of a third computer classroom and as well as to the health center posts with support for the purchase of a possible ultrasound machine and other medical equipment and supplies. The BQSCPC has also supported the travel of Quezalguaque Nicaraguan officials to Brookline to visit our schools and meet with Town and other officials.

In addition, Ben Kahrl traveled to Quezalguaque in late June / early July of 2015 to visit the schools, the health posts, and also with government and Ministry of Education officials to help plan the possible trip in April of 2016. He also visited Masaya and Granada to scout those cities as well to understand clearly the viability and suitability of visits to those parts of Nicaragua. Accompanying him on this trip were Heather White and David Segan, graduates of Brookline High School, and who could speak to the suitability of the trip from a younger person's point of view.

The Brookline-Quezalguaque study travel trip directly supports the Mission of the Public Schools of Brookline. The Mission states: "To ensure that every student develops the skills and knowledge to pursue a productive and fulfilling life, to participate thoughtfully in a democracy, and to succeed in a diverse and evolving global society." As part of their participation in the program, students will examine the challenges of education, healthcare, and economic development in a lower income community like Quezalguaque, Nicaragua. They will hear from members of the BQSCP to understand the challenges and success the Brookline Sister City Project has had in partnering with the Quezalguaque community. Additionally, students will also hear from Boston University and Tufts Medical School and Schools of Public Health graduate students to understand the challenges of combatting chronic kidney disease, healthcare delivery overall, and some of the successes the local healthcare system has seen particularly in the area of

women's health. During the trip, students will visit three different primary and secondary schools, Rubén Darío, Marcolina Penalta, and German Pomares Ordoñez and witness first hand many of the challenges of education in under resourced schools. We are also working with the mayor of Quezalguaque to understand how the local government is supporting the community. These visits will help them understand, in a small way, the diversity of the world and help enable them to succeed in a global society.

Additionally, the trip also supports the Vision Statement, which reads: "The Public Schools of Brookline: Dynamic, Collaborative, Equitable Engaged with the Community Contributing to the World."

The students who participate on the trip will engage with both the community of Brookline through collaborating with the BQSCP and in Nicaragua through working with the Quezalguaque Youth Group and the assistant to the mayor, Henry Sandoval. In Brookline, students will hear from and work with the local BQSCP to raise money for the trip and contribute to the collaboration between the two cities.

Further, the trip supports the third Strategic Area of Focus, which reads: "Strategic Area of Focus: Thriving in a Complex Global Society -- Goal 3. Prepare students with the intellectual, interpersonal and reflective skills needed to thrive in an increasingly complex and diverse global society. Strategy 3.1: Develop opportunities to enhance the global awareness of every student. Strategy 3.5: Create opportunities for student-led discussion and debate over matters related to moral and ethical global issues." Students will learn how to navigate interpersonal discussions with students from another society and culture, whether through visits to the three schools in the Quezalguaque area or through social interactions such as informal soccer games, dance lessons, or music lessons that we are planning as part of the visit. Within the schools, Brookline students will be visiting English language classroom and computer science classrooms. Outside of school, students will be sharing with art, music, and sports activities. In addition, students will be in homestays with local families, who will provide both room and board in typical Quezalguaque homes. Through all of this, they will see first hand some of the challenges that lower income communities around the world face, both with education and health, as well as daily living conditions. It will spur deep and ongoing discussions about these students' and our community's relationship with the world.

The Quezalguaque, Nicaragua travel study trip directly responds to the third goal of the Strategic Plan of the Public Schools of Brookline, which commits us to equipping students with the intellectual and social skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex and diverse global society. In accordance with Strategy 3.1, we will "develop opportunities to enhance the global awareness of every student."

The exchange will include approximately 8-11 BHS students. The trip itself will take place over 8 days, between April 13th and 21st of 2018.

Highlights of the itinerary will include:

- April 13th - Fly to Managua and take a transfer to the city of Leon for on site orientation.
- April 14th - visit historical sights in Leon - walking tour as well.
- April 15th - 18th - visit three schools in Quezalguaque, one health center, and two satellite health posts and meet with youth leaders for sports and cultural activities.
- April 18th - travel to Granada with stop in Masaya to visit Masaya Volcano National Park.
- April 19th - Tourist activities in Granada.
- April 20th - Tourist activities in Granada and then drive to Managua
- April 21st - fly home.

APPLICATION FOR ALL OUT-OF-STATE, OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS

1. Name of Field Trip: Nicaragua - Brookline - Quezalguaque Sister City Student Exchange Trip
Before the trip is announced to students, please submit this form to the Superintendent of Schools:

(a) three (3) months in advance if the trip is within the United States, or

(b) six (6) months in advance if the trip is out-of-the country.

For clarity, all forms are to be word-processed, NOT handwritten. To maintain the formatting, delete the lines.

TRIP LOGISTICS:

1. Name of Field Trip: Nicaragua - Brookline - Quezalguaque Sister City Student Exchange Trip
2. Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval: Benjamin Kahl
3. School: Brookline High School Grade Level: 10-12
4. Have you reviewed the *School Committee Policy I 3 a. for School Sponsored Field Trips*?
yes
5. Have you reviewed the document "*Administrative Procedures for School Sponsored Field Trips*"? yes
6. What is your destination? The towns of Leon, Quezalguaque, and Granada, Nicaragua.
7. What is the date and time you are leaving school? April 13, 2018. We will meet at Logan Airport at approximately 6 am. (this may change slightly depending upon departure time of flight.)
8. What is the date and time you are returning to school? April 21, 2018. The flight will land at Logan International Airport at approximately 10:30pm on Saturday.
9. Do the dates of the trip conflict with any religious holidays or observances? No.
10. How many days will students miss from school? One.
11. How are students being transported (school bus, chartered bus, plane, rail, etc)? They will meet at the airport. From there, they will fly to Managua. Then, they will have a rented bus that will transport them from Managua to Leon. They will then take that shuttle back and forth to Quezalguaque. Finally, they will have a shuttle through Masaya to Granada.
12. How many students will be participating in the field trip? Eight to Eleven.
13. What members of the student body are eligible for the trip? Any 10-12 grade students.
14. How are students selected to participate in this field trip?

Students will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Solid academic record (good study habits, participation, attendance)
- Interest global health, global leadership
- Ability to speak Spanish is a significant plus but not required
- Willingness to be flexible in unpredictable and new situations is a plus
- Ability to serve as an ambassador from Brookline and the United States
- Sensitivity to other people and cultures
- Successful completion of the application
- Perceived potential for personal growth

15. Where will students be staying? Students will stay in a hotel in Leon on April 13-17. . and two nights (April 18-19) in Granada, before going to Managua (April 20th and flying home on the morning of April 21st.
16. What are the names and cell phone numbers of the primary staff chaperones on the trip? Joanne Burke-Hunter 617-894-0144 and Sarah Shuster 516-510-0856
17. Other than those listed in #16 above, what are the names and roles (teacher, parent, etc) of other adult chaperones who will be on the trip? None

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

18. What is the purpose of the trip and how does it relate to Brookline's Learning Expectations (K-8) or BHS Course Syllabi?

In the Global Leadership, which is part of the Social Studies department, students study the challenges of cross cultural understanding, economic development, and healthcare delivery. Students study examples of cross cultural work and how to become sensitive to different cultural practices and norms. With economics, students examine economic development through multinational companies, government efforts such as USAID, or smaller microloan organizations such as Grameen Bank. During the Global Health unit, students must examine a health challenge in a low-income country and propose a solution. They hear from international health experts at international NGO's about how best to approach various problems. Here, in the town of Quezalguaque, they will be able to see first hand some of the challenges and successes, both in terms of economic development and also improving healthcare.

19. Describe activities planned before the trip to prepare students:

Students who have taken Global Leadership or are currently taking Global Leadership examine cross cultural leadership, economic development, and global health. We will also have several meetings before school to meet with members of the BQSCP, returned public health or medical students, and Spanish teachers. We will also have one or two group dinners to bond, discuss the trip, and practice conversational restaurant Spanish. The conference call / Skype sessions with returned public health and medical students will help Brookline students understand some of the daily challenges of living in Quezalguaque and adapting to a simpler life than they lead in the U.S., both in terms of daily activities and also living conditions.

20. Describe activities planned after the trip for students to wrap-up/reflect:

Students will be asked to speak with the current, and possibly future, Global Leadership classes about how they saw the real life application of the concepts that Global Leadership students studied. They will also write a journal / reflection about the trip for future students who may participate in this same trip in the future.

ACCESSIBILITY AND STUDENT SAFETY

21. To what extent does the field trip group reflect the diversity of the school population? What efforts will be undertaken to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the participants in this field trip reflect the diversity of the school population? Currently, the Global Leadership Program has raised \$1000. In addition, the BQSCP is working to commit \$3500 to helping sponsor students and is prepared to help raise additional funds to support the trip.

22. What measures are planned to ensure student safety on the trip, including chaperone coverage, student behavior contracts, etc. There will be two chaperones with students: Joanne Hunter-Burke and Sarah Shuster, who are faculty members at Brookline High School. Each chaperone on the trip will have a cell phone that operates in Nicaragua and can be used to call the United States. Students will be with chaperones at all times. Part of the budget for the trip includes travel insurance that will enable the evacuation of anyone needing more significant medical assistance.

23. What is the name and location of the medical facility closest to your destination? Doctors staff the Quezalguaque health center 24 hours a day.. Leon, a city with several large teaching hospitals, is 45 minutes away. If a need arises, an individual could also be taken to Managua which is two hours away and has additional teaching hospitals, or, from there, by airplane to Miami.

24. Will students be swimming? (please note: if swimming is planned, parents must give explicit written permission for their child to swim; students who do not have this express written permission will not be allowed to swim) Yes, we will include a permission slip specific to swimming in the packet of forms students must submit. The *only* swimming will be a hotel pool in Granada that is less than 6' deep. Swimming will *not* be permitted in any open water.

25. If travelling outside of the United States, please attach the appropriate Department of State Advisory Review and Notification and a copy of Consular statement.
 U.S. Embassy information concerning travel in Nicaragua -
http://nicaragua.usembassy.gov/traveling_in_nicaragua.html
 U.S. State Department Information about travel in Nicaragua
<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/nicaragua.html>
 U.S. State Department webpage with information about Nicaragua
<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/nu/>

FUNDING - Projected Costs

26. What is the total cost of the trip? Please detail the major components of the trip below and provide a total. (These costs are based on 3 chaperones and 12 students.)

	Single Costs	3 chaperones 11 kids
Flight - individual ticket	995	13930
Hotel in Leon - 6 nights - \$65 per double / triple - total of 6 rooms	65	2340
Hotel in Granada - 2 nights 8 room	80	1280
Transportation - Managua to Leon		150
Leon to Quez.		150
Quez to Granada via Masaya		210
Granada to Managua		150
Daily taxi Leon - Quez. round trip - \$40 / day for six days	40	240
Water in Quez. for the time (cost per person per day 6 days)	2	168
Dinner in Quez. the last night	20	280
Entertainment - Masaya and Granada		
Masaya National Park entrance	5	70
Canopy Tour	35	490
Island Boat Tour	25	350
Dinner in Granada x 2	30	840
Breakfast in Granada x 2	20	560
Visa for three teachers		30
		20848
Cost Per student		1930

27. How will the field trip be funded? Students will fund the cost of the trip themselves. We have already secured some pledges totalling \$1500 and will work to conduct fundraising activities. Of this \$1500, \$500 represents a pledge from the BQSCP, which has also pledged to further support fundraising efforts.
28. What accommodations are made for students who cannot afford the expenses of this trip? Are partial and/or full scholarships available? Yes, we will use the funds that have already been raised, in combination with those we raise through fundraising activities through the year, to include *at least* one full scholarship or two partial ones. With the cost structure as outlined above, with eight who pay the full amount, we can offer two full scholarships.
29. If fundraisers are planned to help lower the cost of the trip for all students, please describe those plans here: We will receive financial support from the Brookline Sister City Project, private individual donors, bake sales, and the sale of fair trade coffee from Nicaragua. We have contacted a local vendor in the Boston area, El Recreo in West Roxbury, and their manager, Miriam Morales, said they can supply us coffee at a wholesale price.

Itinerary Details

April 13th - Friday - Flight from Boston to Miami to Managua.

Leave 6am local time. Arrive 1:30pm local time.

Take Transfer from Managua International Airport to Leon. Lodging at bed and breakfast
- Posada Fuente Castalia

April 14th - Saturday -

Short orientation for group members at bed and breakfast.

spend the morning exploring historical sites in Leon. There is a small local market and Spanish colonial churches in town.

Afternoon, travel to Quezalguaque to see the town. Walk around town and meet host families. Return to Leon for a second night.

April 15th - Sunday

Morning travel to Quezalguaque.

Meet with library staff and students - art activity.

Lunch in Quezalguaque

Afternoon - sports activity with the youth group.

April 16th - Monday

Visit one of the three schools in and around Quezalguaque

Sports activities with Youth Group

April 17th - Tuesday

Visit one of the three schools in and around Quezalguaque
Dancing Lessons with Youth Group
Closing dinner with the Youth Group

April 18th - Wednesday

Drive to Granada.
On the way, stop at Masaya Volcano National Park - view volcano.
Masaya Market - for lunch and shopping.

April 19th - Thursday

Tourist Activities in Granada - boat ride on Lake Nicaragua and possible hiking in jungle.

April 20th - Friday

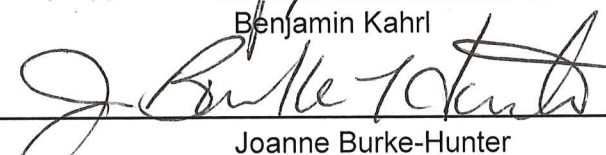
Tourist Activities in Granada - boat ride on Lake Nicaragua and possible hiking in jungle.
Drive to Managua in the afternoon

April 21st - Managua International Airport - fly back to Boston.

Land in Boston at approximately 7:30pm.

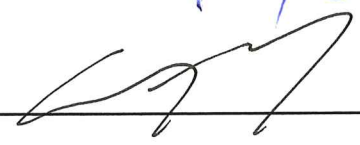
Signatures:

Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval:  Date: 10/24/2017
Benjamin Kahrl

Educator Chaperone:  Date: 10/24/17
Joanne Burke-Hunter

Educator Chaperone:  Date: 10/24/17
Sarah Shuster

Social Studies Coordinator:  Date: 10/24/17
Gary Shiffman

Principal:  Date: 11/8/17
Anthony Meyer

PROPOSED TIMELINE

APPLICATION & RECRUITMENT TIMELINE 2017-2018

October - seek approval by Public Schools Brookline.

November - Distribute application. receive applications, interview students, select participants.

December - \$1000 Check due for the cost of the plane ticket. Purchase plane tickets.

One morning meeting to discuss details about the trip.

what sorts of activities students should prepare for and what sorts of clothing and supplies they should expect to bring, both for themselves and to leave with the community. Divide up who will bring what supplies - soccer, art, music supplies.

January - parent meeting discussing agenda more formally, slide show of Quezalguaque, answer questions from parents about the specific activities of the trip.

Provide information for immunization list needed for the trip. This meeting will also include packing list for the trip.

February - planning fundraising activities. bake sale, sale of Nicaraguan coffee

March 1 - Final payment for the trip is due \$850 - this will cover room, board, and activities for the trip.

February - March

Morning meetings - Spanish activities with students, planning school visits, practicing interactions for the schools - paintings, crafts, sports, etc.

Late March / Early April - Final morning meeting to go over itinerary, packing list, questions about activities, and any remaining questions about individual costs.

April 13th - depart Logan International Airport.

Student Guidelines and Contracts

Students participating in the 2018 Brookline-Quezalagua Exchange Trip to Leon, Quezalagua, and Granada, Nicaragua will abide by Brookline High School rules and regulations as stated in the Handbook, as well as those enumerated in this document.

1. Students and parents/guardians will agree to and sign the rules explained in the STUDENT BEHAVIOR CONTRACT (see attached).
2. Students and parents/guardians will agree to and sign the information and rules explained in the HEALTH INFORMATION SHEET FOR FIELD TRIPS (see attached). Students on medication must be able to self-medicate or give early notification if a parent/guardian must accompany the trip.
3. Parents/guardians must agree to and sign the information explained in the PERMISSION AND RELEASE FORM FOR NICARAGUA TRIP (see attached).
4. Students must be in good academic standing to participate in the program.
5. Students must be aware of and follow airport and terminal procedures.
6. Students are responsible for their own spending money. The chaperones will be responsible for the group expenses.
7. Students are responsible for acquiring or renewing their own passports. They must make five copies of their passport and give them to Ms. Burke-Hunter and Ms. Shuster.
8. Students must honor all deadlines and attend all student and parent/student meetings. If this is not possible, they must see Ms. Burke-Hunter and Ms. Shuster in advance to receive the information.

In addition, the student and his/her parent are advised that School Committee and the Superintendent may cancel a trip at any time, including up to the day of departure, if that it deemed necessary for student safety.

I, (print student name) _____, have read the packet and agree to the information listed above.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I, (print parent name) _____, have read the packet agree to the information above.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

STUDENT BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

CODE OF CONDUCT:

1. I agree that while I am traveling with the Brookline High School Exchange Trip to Leon, Quezalguaque and Granada Nicaragua, I will not use or possess non-prescription drugs, tobacco or alcohol, nor will I be present while someone else is using or possessing non-prescription drugs, tobacco, or alcohol.
2. I agree to and will abide by the curfew. At the appointed time, when staying in hotels with the group I will go to my room and observe quiet. Bed checks will occur after curfew to ensure that the students are where they are supposed to be.
3. I agree to uphold all laws and regulations as dictated by local, State and Federal governments (i.e. under age drinking, assault, shoplifting). I agree to respect the property of others and to pay for any losses and/or damages for which I am found responsible.
4. I agree never to leave the hotel without permission from my chaperone. Should I be granted permission to leave, I will be accompanied by other members of my group.
5. I understand the responsibilities of traveling in a group and will respect meeting times and places.
6. I understand that I am under the direct responsibility and authority of the assigned chaperones, and I will follow and abide by any rules and/or decisions made by these persons.
7. As an ambassador for the Town of Brookline and for Brookline High School, I understand that my interactions with the communities in Nicaragua, particularly in the Sister City of Quezalguaque reflect not only on myself, but my school and my own community. During the trip, I will do my best to ensure that my actions and interactions will reflect positively on all those I represent.

I am signing this Contract, and hereby giving my word of honor that I will follow the above Code of Conduct while traveling in Nicaragua with Brookline High School from April 13th – 21st, 2018. As a representative of Brookline High School, I understand that my behavior is critical to the success of the trip and as a precedent for future exchanges. Any violation of these rules will result in disciplinary action (i.e. being sent back to the United States at my parent's expense, or being suspended from a performance or activity).

Student's Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the above contract signed by my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____